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The Highlander



Thursday December 21 2017 | Issue 319

INSIDE: YEAR-END REAL ESTATE REPORT - PAGE 17

FREE

'Kind and gentle soul' dies in fire

By Lisa Gervais

A man who died in a Saturday morning fire just south of Minden has left behind a "devastated" family just days before Christmas.

The Haliburton Highlands detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) confirmed on Tuesday that Johnathon Webb, 42, of Trent Lakes, perished when the former Wagon Wheel Motel and Restaurant at 11108 Highway 35 went up in flames Dec. 16.

Becky English was the man's sister. *The Highlander* contacted her Tuesday, the same day the family got official word of Webb's passing.

She said John was one of five siblings in her family and "our hearts are broken. We are devastated and we all miss him so much."

She described her brother as "a kind and a gentle soul" who was very private.

"He loved his animals and his family and was protective of all of us, always putting others above himself and never asking for anything. He always took care of others. He loved music and books and his dog and he was the funniest person I knew," English said.

Webb's pet also died in the fire.

In a press release, the OPP said the investigation into the fire had concluded "and the cause of death has been determined to be not suspicious."

The Haliburton Highlands OPP crime unit, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), and the Office of the Chief Coroner assisted with the investigation.

Mike Bekking is the interim fire Chief with the Township of Minden Hills.



Firefighters battle flames at a structure fire at the former Wagon Wheel Motel and Restaurant just south of Minden early Saturday morning. About 35 firefighters attended. One man and his pet died in the blaze. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

He said the blaze broke out early Saturday morning and fire crews arrived on scene about 7:30 a.m. In addition to the Minden Hills fire department, he said crews from Dysart and Algonquin Highlands also assisted with approximately 35 firefighters on-site.

He said the extreme cold and that fact it was a non-hydrant area made conditions difficult.

"Those guys, they worked really hard at that fire," he said. He said in extreme cold, they can face water freezing and perilous

footing.

While the OPP have finished their investigation, Bekking said the Fire Marshal's Office investigation is ongoing. "Fire cause determination and building status will be made public as more information becomes available," he said. However, he said the estimated dollar loss for the building and contents is placed at \$425,000 and the structure is a total loss.

Bekking said the tragedy was also a timely reminder for people to ensure they have working smoke detectors and functioning

carbon monoxide alarms in their homes. The fire was just north of Nye Lane in the Township of Minden Hills.

The building was up for sale.

Many people shared memories of the former Wagon Wheel Motel and Restaurant on our Facebook page. One person commented, "In the 60's, the Wagon Wheel Restaurant was the place to go for food and [to socialize] in summer. It employed a lot of people, working at the restaurant or motel."

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Highlander news



Coun. Susan Norcross holds an injection kit that would be dispersed by the pharmacy.

Photo by Mark Arike.

Head Lake Park popular for intravenous drug use

Collection box to be set up for used needles

By Mark Arike

In less than six-and-a-half months, the Haliburton Highland Pharmacy distributed 6,000 needles to drug users through a needle exchange program with the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR).

But in order to keep used needles off the ground and out of garbage bins, public health nurse Francine Fernandes requested permission to install at least one collection box in the community.

"Most of the time, you're not going to stop people from doing drugs," Fernandes told Dysart councillors at a Dec. 18 meeting. "The reality is they do them, and we'd rather see people do them safely and decrease the chance of them transmitting HIV or Hepatitis C by sharing equipment."

Often, people are using on weekends or late at night when the pharmacy isn't open.

Needle exchange sites are an example of harm reduction, according to the HKPR. They provide a "safe environment to exchange used drug equipment with the supply of new, sterile" equipment.

The pharmacy launched the program a year ago, said Fernandes. They don't collect a fee for doing so. There wasn't a needle exchange program in the community before they started.

"Haliburton is one of our busiest spots. We were quite shocked, actually, when we started providing kits to the pharmacy," she said.

In the first few days, the pharmacy gave out 75 kits. There are two different kinds: an injection kit and an inhalation kit for crack cocaine users.

Fernandes said that eventually the HKPR office in Haliburton will provide kits to users.

It's much more expensive to care for someone who becomes ill from tainted needles than offer an exchange program, she said. The average cost to provide HIV care to one person is \$250,000 compared to \$100 for a year's supply of needles. A liver transplant due to Hepatitis C is \$120,000.

The use of clean needles also prevents abscesses and cellulitis from forming.

Although Fernandes couldn't confirm which drugs are being used, she told *The Highlander* some of the common intravenous substances are heroin and opioids such as fentanyl.

A needle drop-off box weighs about 200 pounds and would be bolted to a concrete pad or building. It will hold about 6,000 needles and feature a double locking system. They cost \$1,600 each and are paid for by provincial funding.

"It's very safe," she said, adding they are widely used across the province.

According to information from drug users, Head Lake Park is a popular spot for shooting up, Fernandes said. Andrea Mueller, recreation program coordinator, said staff have found needles in the garbage bins in the park and on Highland Street.

Councillors were shocked to find out how prevalent drug use is in town and agreed on setting up a collection box.

"It's an outstanding number of people using them," said Mayor Murray Fearrey.

Fernandes pointed out that some people travel to Lindsay and other areas to get needles because they don't want other locals to see them.

"Sadly, I think it's a good idea," said Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts, referring to the installation of boxes. "It's sad the numbers are what they are."

Roberts said needles have been found by the library.

In an interview, Fernandes said she will contact parks and recreation staff about the placement of the box. It will be installed sometime in the new year.



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Highlander news

Wage debate continues at Dysart council

By Mark Arike

Another discussion about remuneration in Dysart led to some confusion and tension this past Monday.

And as a result, nothing is changing for the time being.

Councillors reviewed the current annual pay rates for all lower-tier municipalities in the county as well as those for Cavan Monaghan, Bancroft, North Kawartha, Lake of Bays and Trent Lakes. Dysart's total base cost is about \$118,000. Councillors are paid \$14,800, which is less than all of the other municipalities.

In order to bring them more in line with their counterparts, CAO Tamara Wilbee presented two options. The first was to split a wage increase and phase it in over the next two years, and introduce benefits over the same period. The additional cost would be \$19,000 in 2018 and 2019. The second option was to introduce benefits in 2018 and defer a wage increase to 2019. It would cost \$14,000 in 2018 and \$24,000 in 2019.

With wages and benefits, the mayor would be paid an extra \$500 in 2019 to earn \$26,700. Councillors would be paid an additional \$3,900. The deputy mayor would make \$21,400, an extra \$4,000.

For taxpayers, the \$38,000 increase amounts to \$1.25 for every \$100,000 of



Mayor Murray Fearrey requested a recorded vote. Photo by Mark Arike.

assessed property value.

Councillors Dennis Casey and Susan Norcross reviewed the rates with staff. Both are supportive of a wage increase.

"I think both proposals are a very good step to moving forward to get things a little more on par with our counterparts for the work you do," said Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts.

Casey recommended implementing everything in 2019. It became the third option.

"My thoughts were to do everything [then] so it's out of our hands," he said. "We're not making a decision. We're giving the next council a chance to be on par with the rest of the county."

He's concerned the "next generation"

won't be interested in running for a seat if wages don't change.

Following extensive discussion about each option, Mayor Murray Fearrey requested a recorded vote. Norcross was in favour of the first option; Roberts, councillors Tammy Donaldson and Nancy Wood-Roberts voted for the second option; and Coun. Walt McKechnie, Casey and Fearrey went with the final option. Since only Norcross chose option one, councillors were asked which of the other two options they preferred. Norcross abstained, resulting in a tie.

Roberts was outraged and disappointed with the outcome.

"Understand, before we come to a meeting, the hard work that went into this by staff," she told her colleagues. "You wanted an increase three weeks ago and now you voted for nothing."

Due to the confusion, Wilbee told *The Highlander* she will present a report to council next month, "recommending an implementation of some sort for the new term."

"In hindsight, there were probably too many options on the table to keep it clear," she said.

In an interview, Casey said the third option was his original proposal at this time last year.

OPP hires new detachment commander

By Mark Arike

A former sergeant with the Haliburton Highlands OPP is returning to take over as detachment commander. Liane Spong-Hooyenga, a case manager at the municipal policing bureau, will start the job on Jan. 15, *The Highlander* has learned.

"She's terrific and should be a great addition to the detachment," said Carol Moffatt, chair of the county's Community Policing Advisory Committee.

Moffatt received the news about three weeks ago from former detachment commander Richard Riopelle. She told the

committee and called Spong-Hooyenga to congratulate her.

"She said, 'I'm so excited,'" recalled Moffatt, who knows the incoming commander. She described her as "fair and easygoing," and said her previous work in the area will be a benefit.

"She will likely be able to pick up some pre-existing relationships where they left off, and just step right back in."

Spong-Hooyenga was a sergeant in the county for many years before joining the policing bureau. In her current role, she oversees costing requests from municipalities that are considering switching from a municipal police force

to the OPP, according to Sgt. Peter Leon, Central Region media relations coordinator. She leads a team of municipal policing specialists to carry out this work.

"She is excited to return once again to the Haliburton Highlands detachment," said Leon.

In February 2013, Spong-Hooyenga provided information to Minden Hills council when it was considering contracting the OPP to enforce bylaws.

In September, Riopelle announced his departure after a year as commander. Staff Sgt. Joe Evans became the interim commander at the end of August.



Incoming OPP detachment commander Liane Spong-Hooyenga, left, spoke to Minden Hills council about policing costs and contracts during a meeting in February 2013. She is currently a case manager at the municipal policing bureau. File photo.

**County of Haliburton
Holiday Office Hours**

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the Administration Building at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, ON will close on Friday, December 22, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. and will re-open for regular business on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

The County Roads Department has a 24 hour call answer service (705-286-1762) should you require immediate assistance.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents and Haliburton Highlands Mental Health Services would like to remind the community that we provide **quick and supportive access to mental health and counselling services**.

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Christmas Eve Dec 24
10 am. Lochlin United Church
1050 Lochlin Road, Lochlin

7:00 pm at Haliburton United Church
10 George Street, Haliburton

New Year's Eve Dec 31
9:00 am at Ingoldsby United Church
1741 Ingoldsby Road, Ingoldsby
11:15 am Contemporary Service
at Haliburton United Church
10 George Street, Haliburton



Highlander news

Minden Hills township in good shape: auditor

By Lisa Gervais

Future delegations to Minden Hills council can blame an accountant from Sudbury when they argue they should get services equivalent to their taxes – only to be shot down.

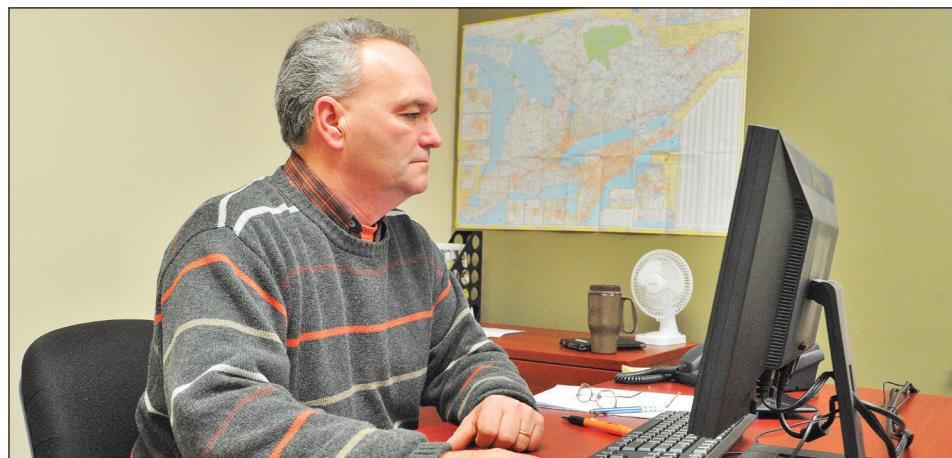
That's not the way the system works, Oscar Poloni of KPMG, told councillors during a Minden Hills State of the Town presentation Dec. 14.

"There is absolutely no correlation to what people pay in taxes and what they get in municipal services," Poloni told councillors. He said municipal taxes were never designed to be a full user pays system, or an income tax, but are basically a wealth tax, so, "the concept 'I pay a lot of tax so I should expect a lot of services' doesn't apply."

The accountant said he pays \$12,000-a-year in taxes to the City of Greater Sudbury, and another \$12,000-a-year for his ex-wife's property, for a combined \$24,000-a-year in municipal taxes and, "I'm not getting \$24,000 in municipal services." However, he said that is the price he pays for a choice to live on a lake in the northern Ontario city.

It was just one comment Poloni made about the township's ratio of seasonal to full-time residents and the dilemma created when it comes to balancing services.

Overall, he said more than 50 per cent of the population of Minden Hills pays less than \$1,000-a-year in municipal taxes



Mayor Brent Devolin is pleased with the auditor's report. File.

– equivalent to what he pays for cable, internet and cell phone service. He added more than 50 per cent pay less than \$2,000 for all taxation, including the County of Haliburton and education taxes.

Taxes have gone up in Minden Hills, he noted, but said those increases are balanced out by workers having also made more money. "The most important part is the increase in your tax levy has actually been mirroring increases in income."

Coun. Pam Sayne did take exception to that finding, saying systemically we are seeing "those who have more money and those who have less." She urged caution on using the argument that "therefore the people who live here can afford the increased taxes." She said the reality is that

some cannot.

Poloni said he realized that his general findings were variable from person to person, as "some people will have won out of this, some people will not have won out of this."

Poloni told council, that after an extensive looks at factors such as sustainability, flexibility and vulnerability, he'd found "a good news story. You've done a very good job between yourselves and your staff of managing the financial position and financial assets of this municipality.

"For an overall perspective ... your numbers and your indicators are actually very positive. We see a strong financial position, we see the absence of affordability concerns. From a financing perspective,

you're very well leveraged, with good assets, good reserves and very low debt."

While giving council and staff a pat on the back, he also suggested four areas they should keep an eye on.

"That seasonal versus year-round perspective is always an issue. In terms of progress for seasonal residents, do we think we're doing it?" Poloni said he would not recommend area rating as it is incredibly complicated and divisive.

He also noted in his extensive report that the number of fixed income earners in the township, versus employed people "is not inconsequential."

He added that council, which has reserves building up, should have a plan for those reserves, since "at the end of the day, you don't have enough reserves. Nobody does."

He also thinks they could do more with capital investment planning, noting aging infrastructure and an infrastructure gap here that is mirrored across Ontario's 444 municipalities.

He also thought a report card, similar to the state of the town he presented last Thursday, could be given to the general public on an annual basis.

Mayor Brent Devolin appreciated the report, saying "you think how are you doing versus your neighbours" and you may have an idea but it is "always really good to have someone with clean eyes" have a look.

Coun. Ron Nesbitt said he liked the idea of the public knowing where the township is at, and what it is doing with money.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

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The Highlander's Mission

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas

To report on issues, people and events important to the community

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

The cat came back

On a recent Sunday night, I was completing my bed-time ritual, which includes a quick troll through Facebook to make sure I haven't missed anything, when an interesting posting popped up.

It was on the Kawartha Lakes Animal Wellness Society (KLAWS) website. A woman who lived near Reaboro, about half way between Lindsay and Omemee, wrote that an orange cat with a white tip on his tail had sauntered down their driveway. He had a collar and tag. It looked to them as though the name might be Marty.

My heart leapt. We had a cat named Marty. Or, at least, we once had a cat named Marty but he went missing from our home in Lindsay way back in April, 2016. I'll spare you the quick mental calculation. That's about 20 months ago.

Could this be him? It sure sounded like a solid lead. There had been other KLAWS postings in the past. There had been more than one drive from Carnarvon to the Lindsay area, only to be heartbroken when yet another orange cat sure looked like, but wasn't, our boy.

Marty was the first kitten I ever had. We all have that one pet that finds a place in our heart and is irreplaceable and Marty was that for me. When we got him in

Lindsay, we'd been told he was a she. We got him shortly after a trip to Martha's Vineyard, so he was aptly named Martha - until the vet pointed out the obvious and he was re-named Marty. A cuddly fur ball from the get-go, who loved nothing better but a good play, he was more dog than cat. I loved him from day one, especially when he crawled up onto my chest and let me hold him as he slept.

The last time we'd had a false alarm, I vowed I couldn't do it anymore. We had to give up on the pipe dream that he would ever come home. It was time to let him go.

And, then, the post.

I quickly messaged the woman in Reaboro, who told me the orange cat had infiltrated the barn, where he was greedily scarfing down all the food and growling at the other barn cats. I asked her to turn that tag around and see if she could find a phone number. After all, since he'd gone missing, we had not only moved from Lindsay to Carnarvon, but changed our phone numbers, too. I waited for an answer and she phoned a few hours later to say she'd read the number and, yes, it was one of our old ones.

It was him!

The next afternoon, after work, I drove to

Reaboro. I was excited about a reunion with my old friend. I was also fearful about the kind of shape he would be in, both physically and mentally, after nearly two years on the lam.

The woman greeted me and ushered me into her farmhouse porch. The cat I found there was decidedly skinnier and dirtier than the one that had disappeared, but the distinctive M on his forehead and a tiny scar on his nose only confirmed it. The woman knew it too, saying it was the first time he had purred since he found his way onto their rural property. Into the cat carrier he went for a long drive back to Carnarvon. Long because he didn't stop meowing for the entire 75 minutes. He had a lot to tell me. I only wish I spoke cat.

As I write this, he's curled up in his tower. He's healthy after a trip to the vet. He is putting on weight. He's had more baths than he'd like. He's had lots of cuddles, too. He's starting to act like his old self.

As for me, well, what can I say? I've gotten my Christmas present a little early.



By Lisa Gervais

All wrapped up for Christmas

With Christmas fast approaching, I can think of no better time than now to talk about underwear, specifically my experiences with underwear.

Underwear has always had a strong Christmas connection for me. In my childhood, pairs of underwear were scattered amongst the many packages, under the tree, that had my name on them. Included in the cornucopia of gaily decorated gifts were boxes containing socks, sometimes there would be a clip-on bow tie and a toy ... some foreign looking material that I was assured was something to play with. "Build something," they urged as I unwrapped the suspicious package.

But my strongest memory is of fresh, still in the package, neatly folded with cardboard stiffener inside, underwear. Actually the undergarment avalanche, coming at Christmas, was a timely and thoughtful addition to my youthful wardrobe. I specifically remember a pair of long johns ... you know the item that was once called a union suit, but today would be referred to more fashionably as a onesie. Made by the good people at Stanfield's in Truro, Nova Scotia, this secret sartorial statement enveloped one, like a cocoon from the ankle

to the neck and down the arms to the wrists with heat preserving wool. Not only did Stanfield's long johns keep one warm, they generated massive spasms of itching caused by the fabric which often felt akin to the gentle caress of a baby porcupine. And woe be the people who chose long johns in the morning only to discover the temperature climbing throughout the day to the point that they were close to passing out within their own hot house.

But the outstanding feature of the long johns was the infamous trap door at the back, supposedly positioned so as to allow the wearer to ... ah, well ... no need to go too far down that road. Anyway, my experience was, that as a result of miscalculation at the factory, the opening created by undoing the buttons holding the trap door shut, never seemed to be in line with one's anatomy and, well ... perhaps, another road we need not explore any further. Suffice to say the flap has become the butt (if you will) of many a joke, jape and cartoonish set up.

All that notwithstanding, the one-piece long john (I am never sure if it is correct to singularize the item when speaking of only one pair) delivered on its promise

and kept us warm. Winters were colder back then, the snow was yards deeper and the hills always went up. But no matter how cold it got, one could always be secure when stepping outside wearing a pair of long johns ... and of course other items of clothing.

Since then, the clever people who work in underwear have simplified the whole thing by slicing the onesie in half at the waist, creating top and bottom. The fabric is a lot softer on the skin, it is easier to get into and out of a two-piece onesie and, perhaps most significantly of all, one need not worry about the flap ever again.

As I join the present-opening frenzy this Christmas, I'll spare a brief moment and fondly remember, with a tear in my eye and feeling the itch on my skin, the joy of opening a gift box of long johns and socks.

Here's hoping your Christmas morning is filled with equally touching moments.



By Jack Brezina

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from all of us at **The Highlander**.
Next edition January 4

Editorial opinion

Eye on the street: What's your favourite thing about Christmas?



Cheryl Parsons

Minden

Doing my Christmas baking.



Jeanne Luddington

Mountain Lake

Family, friends and the days are going to get longer.



Norma Clelow

Carnarvon

Just being together with family.



Pat Campbell

Minden

I look forward to the Christmas story at the different churches.



Andrea Coysch

Minden

Seeing all of my family.

Photos and interviews by Lisa Gervais

Bob Lake should pay for its own ramp

Dear editor,

There is no doubt that one or more of the property owners on Bob Lake upset the land owner of the only boat ramp providing access to the lake. That privilege has been revoked.

Now, 230 property owners have formed an association to ask the township ie: (local taxpayers) to come up with \$30K to install a new access ramp on existing township land. They claim it will pay off tenfold to the township. I say prove it. They claim their property value is going to decrease by 10 to 15 per cent and will diminish local tax revenue. Existing owners will never see their taxes go down, only when they sell will the new owners be assessed and taxes paid accordingly. \$30,000 divided by 230 property owners = \$130.50 each to cover costs. That's a small price I would pay to ensure access to the lake and all the benefits that come with it. Not to mention it will ensure my property value does not decrease. I do not wish for my taxes to increase to serve their needs.

Matt Thomson
Minden

Not against the ramp but get the facts right

Dear editor,

Thanks for the article regarding the proposed Bob Lake boat ramp access. It mentions the ramp at the north end of the lake was last used in 1946. There must have been two ramps, as a public ramp was used well up into the 1970's at the north end of the lake. It was not only a public use ramp but public money spent on it and I believe located on a concession allowance.

I used to make many visits to the ramp site to move vehicles either off the ramp itself or off the road when the OPP had more important calls to worry about. One of the reasons the ramp was closed was because of new building construction adjacent to the ramp, little public parking facilities for vehicles using the ramp and complaints from residents about litter, parking and the public use. I'm sure not against the ramp but let's make sure the facts are right.

Richard (Dick) Schell
Minden

Send your letters to
editor@thehighlander.ca

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Jeff Hunter recently snapped this photograph of a sun dog over M.W. Hunter Lumber in Gooderham. Submitted.

Ho ho oh no ...

Most often, when I sit down to pen this missive, I look back at my week and conjure some rambling tale from the blundering, accident prone, catastrophe that is my everyday life. Today, however, I feel compelled to tell you about a foreboding that I have for events in the near future. You see, I am worrying about Christmas and most importantly Santa Claus. Put simply, I don't know whether he'll be visiting us this year.

Now, this isn't because Little Z has been a bad boy, far from it. My son is, thankfully, quite a good little fellow, whom for the most part is a pleasure to be around. The thing is, Little Z is now eight (eight and five-and-a-half months, if you ask him) and I'm beginning to suspect that he is

beginning to suspect that Santa may not be quite as real as we try to make out.

I don't have any hard evidence to say yet that he doesn't believe, and I'm certainly not going to be the one to break the news to him, just in case my fears are unfounded and I let the proverbial Christmas cat out of the bag prematurely. However, his knowing glances at the pile of brown boxes stacked in my office – I tell him they are copies of my latest book – and the fact that the elves made a right pig's ear of his advent calendar this year (I put all the little treats in the wrong holes in the homemade calendar!) give me cause to wonder whether the magic of the jolly fella in a red suit is beginning to fade.

And then, most worryingly of all, is our

tradition, passed down from my childhood days, that Santa turns on the Christmas tree lights when he's made the all-important delivery. Now, I know for a fact that the belief bubble burst for me on the Christmas morning of my ninth year when I heard 'Santa' fart as he tiptoed up the stairs before climbing into bed with my mum. That toot, unmistakably one of my dad's, quite literally blew away any shred of belief that I may have held onto.

And now, it is I who sneaks to turn on the lights. I must run the gauntlet so silently to carry the Christmas torch for another year. In the past, it has been easy because Little Z has been sound asleep but this year there's a whiff of something in the air (no, not a fart!), I feel he senses something afoot and

The Outsider



I fear that he may lie waiting to catch 'Santa' in the act.

I've tried to come up with foolproof plans. I've even made practice runs to confirm the creaky steps, bypass the furniture and avoid stepping on Jeff the dog in the nighttime gloom. But, short of drilling a hole in the ceiling and re-wiring the Christmas tree lights to an outlet in our bedroom, I am not sure that I am going to be able to carry out this all important mission successfully.

So, to you all I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Wish me luck and I'll see you in 2018. But Santa, I can't promise that he'll still be with us.

By Will Jones

Highlander news



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Holiday Office Hours

The Chamber office will be closed Monday, December 25 to Tuesday, January 2.

Merry Christmas!

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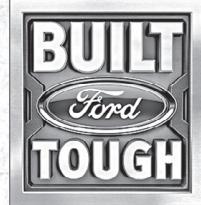
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Highlander news

Call goes out for volunteers on ice

By Mark Arike

Highlands East needs volunteers to keep its outdoor skating rinks and tobogganing hills in tip-top shape to avoid a lawsuit.

Property supervisor Jim Alden recently told council the municipality doesn't have enough manpower to ensure these attractions are safe. There are two outdoor rinks—one in Cardiff and one in Gooderham—and a tobogganing hill in Cardiff. Alden provided council a list of what needs to be done, based on information from the municipality's insurance company.

For rinks, the ice needs to be at least two inches thick at all times. The surface must be ploughed after it snows and signage should be erected to advise users of safe practices, such as wearing helmets and no alcohol on-site. Signage is most important for tobogganing hills, said CAO Shannon Hunter.

"It's just common sense stuff that we have to have," said Alden, adding he can't see how it will work without volunteers. "If we have lots of snow, my team is busy doing walkways and other areas. We can't be there."

In a report, Alden said daily maintenance checks will be necessary to ensure these sites meet the requirements of their insurance provider.

"It is the municipality's duty to keep the properties in safe conditions to accommodate for their intended purposes. Ultimately, by not maintaining these areas it places the responsibility back onto the community members to use private property for these activities rather than municipal lands," he said.

Hunter suggested the municipality



Coun. Joan Barton at the Highlands East meeting. Photo by Mark Arike.

promote its indoor facilities for skating due to the recent decline in ice rentals.

Coun. Cam McKenzie questioned the need for such strict standards.

"I can see ice thickness on a pond being an issue, but why we'd have to measure ice surface on an outdoor rink that's paved, I have a hard time buying into," said McKenzie.

He asked if there have been any claims

against the municipality. Alden said there haven't been.

Coun. Cecil Ryall said volunteers won't have a problem maintaining these sites, but they won't be interested in record-keeping. He also said that volunteers will wonder who is responsible for maintaining snow-clearing equipment.

Alden said his department can maintain the equipment.

Mayor Dave Burton inquired as to why this came forward now. Hunter said it's the result of training Alden took and a report from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

On Dec. 13, the municipality put out a call for volunteers for the outdoor rinks in Gooderham and Cardiff. Anyone interested in helping should call the municipal office at 705-448-2981.

Drop in fire calls for Highlands East

There was a big drop in fire calls in Highlands East in November. Acting fire Chief Chris Baughman recently reported a total of 13 calls for the month compared to 35 last year, a nearly 70 per cent decrease. Seven of those calls went to the fire stations in Highland Grove and Wilberforce. There have been 245 calls to date compared to 285 for all of 2016. The majority of calls were for medical assistance. (Mark Arike).



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Highlander news

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Hospital lacks space and staff for extra flu beds

By Mark Arike

The provincial government recently announced it's investing \$140 million in creating more than 1,200 hospital beds this flu season, but none of those beds are coming to Haliburton County.

That's because local hospitals don't have enough space and Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) can't hire extra staff within the required timeframe, according to HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer.

"The funding is only available until the end of March," she said. "We don't have the ability to create space or bring in staff, so we're not going to be receiving any of that funding."

However, hospitals in Peterborough and Lindsay will be adding more beds.

This will "definitely help us out in the long-term," said Plummer. "We're excited to have that investment in the region."

Hospitals in the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) are experiencing increased capacity and patients have been admitted to emergency departments, said Plummer. This is happening at the Minden and Haliburton sites.

The province also recently announced the creation of 5,000 new long-term care beds in the next four years and more than 30,000 in the next decade. It's currently unknown if any will be coming to the county, said Plummer.

"We do know that long-term care capacity has been and continues to be an issue, so we're excited to hear that announcement ... and what it's going to mean for us."

This investment is part of Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors. According to Premier Kathleen Wynne, the government's "efforts to better support seniors are part of our ongoing work to build a fairer society."

INFORMATION PAGE

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NOTICE Budget Standing Committee Meeting

Take Notice that the Budget Standing Committee, comprised of all members of Council, will meet on Thursday January 11, 2018 at 9:00 am in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON to review the second draft of the 2018 Budget.

For further information regarding the meeting, please contact Dawn Newhook, Clerk.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 ext. 205
dnewhook@mindenhills.ca

Seasons Greetings

From the Township of Minden Hills
Council and Staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Administration Office

Hours of Operation:

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

CLOSED Dec 25th

to Jan 1st

Regular hours resume

Jan 2nd

Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery

CLOSED Dec 22nd to Jan 1st

Regular hours resume Jan 3rd

Landfills

All Sites are **CLOSED** Dec 25th & Jan 1st

Meeting & Events

Jan 25 - 9:00 am, combined COTW/Council Meeting, Minden Council Chambers

For Council, Boards & Advisory Committee meetings, visit www.mindenhills.ca

Please Note: Council meetings are reduced to one meeting during the month of January.

DID YOU KNOW?

When setting up your Christmas tree, place it well away from fireplaces and radiators, as heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly so be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Make sure the tree does not block exits and is out of the way of foot traffic.

WINTER IN THE WOODS

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THURSDAY

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Staff reserves right to deny participation.

Request for Rates

RFR #RDS 17-016 – Aggregate and Materials.
The Roads Dept. is seeking rates for a three (3) year term (2018 – 2020). Submission deadline is Feb 1, 2018 by 12:00 noon. Visit www.mindenhills.ca/tenders/ for more information.

Highlander news

Staff and councillors get a raise

Algonquin Highlands council approved staff salary increases and council remuneration for 2018 during its Dec. 14 regular meeting.

Permanent and permanent part-time employees will receive a cost of living increase of 1.75 per cent, effective Jan. 1.

Annual remuneration for council was also raised by 1.75 per cent to \$27,976.51 for the mayor, \$22,381.30 for the deputy mayor, and \$18,775.42 for councillors, effective Jan. 1. The remuneration covers all regular meetings conducted within the township boundaries. Council will continue to deem one-third of the remuneration to be expenses involved in the discharge of duties.

Log chute gets green light for repair

The historic Hawk Lake Log Chute, severely damaged by flooding in May, will be repaired under insurance coverage.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt told councillors the good news during their Dec. 14 regular meeting. Moffatt said the township insurance company is still determining how and when the work will be done.

"We need to make sure that it's built so it doesn't happen again," said Moffatt. "So engineers are involved now, which will make a difference."

First built in 1870, the 220-foot long chute was fully restored and opened to the public in 2005.

Plans continue for airport's 50th birthday

Aerial and static aircraft displays, an aerobatics display and sightseeing flights are

among the plans under consideration for celebrations of the Stanhope Municipal Airport's 50th anniversary in 2018.

An early plan to contact the Snowbirds aerobatics team was discarded due to financial and scheduling concerns, according to an Algonquin Highlands staff report to council at the Dec. 14 regular meeting.

Instead, the committee and staff will continue to search for an aerobatics display group, and will contact the Department of National Defence, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Ornge medical emergency transportation organization to provide stationary and aerial displays. A helicopter charter operator will be contacted about providing local sightseeing flights for paying customers, and aircraft manufacturers will be asked to provide aircraft and personnel for display and information.

The committee will ask council for an additional \$5,000 in the 2018 budget to cover event expenses, including advertising, crowd control fencing, seating and food supplies. Council approved the forming of an ad hoc special event committee to assist in the planning and will begin advertising for that shortly.

Airport jet fuel sales drop in 2017

Jet fuel sales at the Stanhope Municipal Airport took a nose dive in 2017, dropping by 26.8 per cent from 52,583 litres to 38,503 litres at Nov. 30 compared to the same period last year.

The current price for Jet A-1 fuel at the airport is \$1.35 per litre, including HST.

Hydro One activity increased this year, but the airport saw a "drastic decrease" in commercial aircraft movements related to the Ministry of Natural Resources and

Algonquin Highlands in brief



Forestry's base at the airport, according to airport manager Cam Loucks. He said this year's very wet spring season reduced the number of forest fires handled by the base compared to the number handled during the dry, extremely busy local forest fire season in 2016.

"It ended up that 2016 and 2017 were polar opposites when comparing weather conditions that were conducive to forest fire activity," said Loucks. "It's a hard thing to admit, but forest fires are good for business. Not just for airports but also hotels, grocery stores, hardware stores, fuel suppliers, aircraft subcontractors ... forest fires drive the economy in so many different ways."

AH supports Dorset Health Hub's future

Algonquin Highlands council has agreed to write a letter of support in principle for continued operation of the Muskoka Community Health Hubs (MCHH) model, provided the province commits to sustainable funding. The five-hub group

includes the Dorset Health Hub.

The letter was requested by the District of Muskoka at the Dec. 14 council meeting. It will be included with the Final Evaluation Report and Sustainability Plan for the MCHH Demonstration Project. The sustainability plan is designed to transition the hubs to a permanent role in the local health care system. The final report and the plan are to be submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in January.

The three-year project has received much recognition for best practices, including a place on the 2017 Minister's Medal Honour Roll.

Mayor Carol Moffatt called the project a "phenomenal experience for all involved," but said funding "should live at the provincial level" and AH must ensure that any AH funding goes to the Dorset Hub alone.

AH has already agreed to consider a \$10,000 contribution toward Dorset Hub capital costs during budget deliberations in January.

(AH briefs compiled by Lisa Harrison)

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Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays
From our family to yours!

Highlander news

Fire hall on schedule

Despite a recent roof truss collapse and the onset of winter, construction of the new Minden Hills fire hall on Highway 35 remains on schedule.

In a report, interim fire Chief Mike Bekking said, "barring any unforeseen setbacks, we can look forward to moving into the new hall by the end of March 2018 and getting things up and running."

Speaking to the collapse, Bekking reported that, "all safety precautions, PPE (personal protective equipment), and training certifications required to be in place during this work were in place, and continue to be in place as the project moves forward."

Bekking said the insulation levels in the walls and roof meet current Ontario Building Code standards which are R-60 levels in the roof and R-34 in the exterior walls, as well as an ICF foundation, "making for an extraordinarily efficient building. The heating system within the building features an in-floor radiant heating system with the latest in high efficiency technology."

No tax on hotels

It would appear the province's new transient accommodation tax won't be coming to the Township of Minden Hills.

The council received – and briefly discussed – a letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs, Bill Mauro, on the tax

that councils can start collecting as of Dec. 1, 2017. Money collected would go in part to tourism organizations.

CAO and treasurer Lorrie Blanchard said it was "another tool in the toolbox" for municipal revenue if council had an appetite for it.

However, it appears council does not. Mayor Brent Devolin said it would be adding another load on small business in Haliburton County already struggling with things such as the need to implement a \$14-an-hour minimum wage on Jan. 1, 2018. "I wouldn't be inclined to support it at this time."

Coun. Pam Sayne added that it appeared to be more of a City of Toronto-aimed tax for hotels and short-term accommodations but hoteliers have hit back in opposition.

Record attendance at cultural centre

With 8,000 visitors in 2017, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre has set a new record for attendance.

This was just one of the highlights of a year-end report to council authored by director of community services, Mark Coleman.

Last year, 6,100 people came through the doors, and the next closest year was 2010 when 7,215 people visited the Minden landmark.

"Admission by donation continues to be

well-received and consistent," Coleman said.

According to him, the centre's relationships with community groups is growing. For example, he said the space is used by horticultural groups, Environment Haliburton!, the Ontario Early Years Centre and Haliburton School of Art and Design.

Coleman said new downtown signage is helping and they've had many first-time visitors as well as hosted weddings and photo shoots.

That said, Coleman said he'd like the site better promoted on the township's website. They're also seeking a liquor license for the centre.

Coleman also noted that this year's Festival of Trees raised \$15,626.

Minden Hills in brief

Huntsville for approximately \$73,000 excluding HST.

The Bobcaygeon Road bridge, which is officially known as the Sunnybrook Bridge, sustained some damage in the 2017 floods but is an aging bridge that was already showing signs of deterioration before flood waters in May.

Wilson said Tulloch will do a feasibility study.

Staff have asked for them to look into a number of things, including wider sidewalks, better site lines from Water Street and Invergordon Avenue, street lighting or colour blast lighting so the bridge could be theme-lit, a better build to ease erosion and replacement of hand railings.

One key point will be investigating the cost difference for complete closure of the bridge during construction or one half at a time, Wilson said.

In a report to council, the roads superintendent said, "the above items will be discussed in depth through a feasibility study which is included in the costs for the proposal from Tulloch Engineering (\$22,140). Should council decide to include any additional work from the list above in the final design of the project, the cost of engineering work will be additional to this contract."

The actual bridge work itself is expected to take place in 2019.

(Minden Hills briefs are compiled by editor Lisa Gervais.)

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Highlander news

County gets affordable housing plan

By Mark Arike

Following several brainstorming sessions between stakeholders and a consultant at the end of the summer, the County of Haliburton and the City of Kawartha Lakes have a five-year plan to establish more affordable housing in the area.

During a Dec. 13 council meeting, consultant Christine Pacini of SHS Consulting and Hope Lee, CEO of the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation, presented an affordable housing framework that outlined the need for more housing and listed 26 actions.

"Some of the tools are financial, some aren't," said Pacini. "But they're all tools that the committee felt would encourage the development of affordable housing."

Some of the recommendations for next year include implementing a simplified online registration process for secondary suites throughout the county and City of Kawartha Lakes; developing and maintaining an inventory of all surplus municipal land and buildings; and amending official plans to ensure affordable housing is considered first when decisions about surplus municipal lands are made.

One of the key areas Pacini and local stakeholders looked at was the incentives that could be offered to builders to come to the area. She said the current need is for affordable and market rent housing.

"That's the gap. That's what the private sector is not really building in your community," she said.

Coun. Murray Fearrey said developers are apprehensive because they are uncertain of costs.

"They don't know whether hydro is going to go up ... or all of the services are going to go up," said Fearrey.

One of the financial incentives includes waiving or providing a grant-in-lieu of planning, building application and sewer connections fees, states the report.

Pacini said there is a market for secondary suites, and that it's "probably the most cost-effective way to create housing in your community." A secondary suite is a private, self-contained unit within an existing dwelling, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Lee said the work that has been done captures the goals of the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, which was adopted in 2014. The coming year will be the implementation year.

"We didn't want to adopt all this good work and then have it sit stagnant for a year," she said. "We want it to be a living document."

Lee asked council to adopt the strategy and support three target areas. They include launching a secondary suite program, a multi-unit rehabilitation program and a new



Hope Lee, CEO of the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation, joined consultant Christine Pacini of SHS Consulting to present an affordable housing framework to county council. Photo by Mark Arike.

rental housing program, which will require \$144,000 in municipal funding. This is the second phase of Whispering Pines in Haliburton.

A total of \$72,000 is part of the proposed 2018 operating budget.

Former County Warden Brent Devolin, who sits on the board of the housing corporation, commended Lee and Pacini for their work.

"The city, with us, is doing great stuff,"

said Devolin. "We're getting more units for less money than we have in past years. They're bringing forward the tools we can use municipally."

Council endorsed the plan, which will guide future works plans and budget submissions.

The framework will be presented to councils at all four lower-tier municipalities in February and March.

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Highlander business



Realtors spread the giving spirit

Thirty realtors with Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd. recently opened their wallets to make two \$500 donations to food banks in Haliburton and Minden. "We try to support a lot of local charities," said broker of record Andrew Hodgson. "We're locally-owned and we're proud to support our community." Hodgson challenged other businesses to give back this time of year. (Mark Arike)

Pictured left: Marilynne Lesperance and Pat Thorne of the Minden Food Centre accept a \$500 cheque from the team at Century Granite Realty Group Ltd. in Minden. Photo by Jennifer Hughey. Right: David Ogilvie, chair of the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank, receives a \$500 cheque from the team at Century Granite Realty Group Ltd. in Haliburton. Photo by Mark Arike.



Smile Cookies help VDO

Tim Hortons restaurants in Haliburton and Minden raised nearly \$5,000 for the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County (VDO) by selling Smile Cookies in September. A few VDO board members received a cheque from franchise owner Nancy Bishop and her staff Dec. 8. The campaign has raised \$17,360 since 2014. Pictured, Tim Hortons operations manager Debbie Rouble, owner Nancy Bishop and staff present a cheque for \$4,951 to VDO board members Bill Kerr, Kathy Purc, former volunteer dentist John Purc, Lisa Kerr and Betty Mills. Absent: Janis Parker, Mark Arike, Sandra Slauenwhite-Box, Brigitte Gebauer and Melanie Aldom. Submitted.

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Performances July 2-5 (7:30 p.m.), 6 & 8 (2 p.m. matinee), 9 & 10 (7:30 p.m.).

WHAT'S ON *stage* THIS SUMMER



The Dining Room

by A.R. Gurney

The play is set in a fine dining room, the place where the family assembled daily for breakfast and dinner and for any and all special occasions. The action is a mosaic of interrelated scenes—some touching, some revealing, some hilarious—which, taken together, create an in-depth portrait of the rewards and trials of family life. The actors change roles, personalities and ages with virtuoso skill as they portray a wide variety of characters, from little boys to stern grandfathers, and from giggling teenage girls to Irish housemaids.

Performances July 30 - Aug 2 (7:30 p.m.), 3 & 5 (2 p.m. matinee), Aug 7 & 8 (7:30 p.m.).

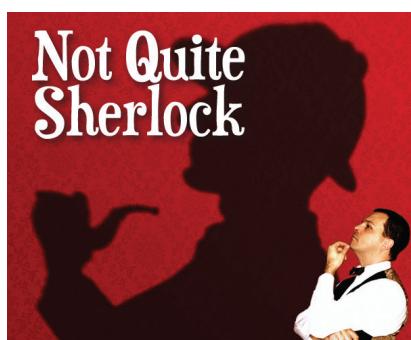


Cliffhanger

by James Yaffe

Mingling suspense and humour, this ingeniously plotted thriller follows all the unexpected twists and turns that result when a seemingly mild-mannered professor of philosophy is driven to apparent murder to protect his reputation and career.

Performances July 16-19 (7:30 p.m.), 20 & 22 (2 p.m. matinee), 23 & 24 (7:30 p.m.).



Not Quite Sherlock

Created by and starring Chris Gibbs

Not Quite Sherlock is a one-man comedy about Victorian London's most overlooked detective. It's also a ridiculous comedy about an ex-street-performing comedian attempting to do a one-man comedy about Victorian London's most overlooked detective. With wit, charm, timing, and almost no respect for the rules of theatre, Chris Gibbs creates a simple, hilarious theatrical experience unlike any other.

Performances July 11 & 12 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (2 p.m. matinee).

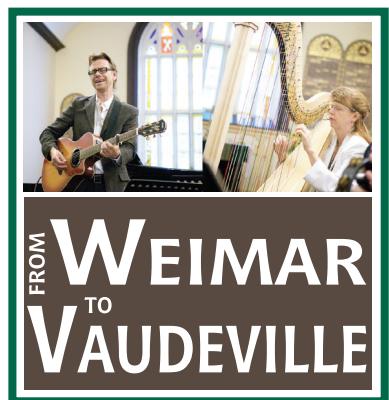
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From Weimar to Vaudeville

by Tom Allen

The story of two men, both sons of musical royalty. As America emerges from the Great Depression and Germany descends into darkness and chaos, two musical princes, one rich, one poor, reach out to each other across hardship and time as the world tilts again toward war. Featuring music by Richard Strauss, Charlie Chaplin, Fletcher Henderson, Paul Hindemith, and Johannes Brahms, along with stunning original songs by the cast, Weimar to Vaudeville is Tom Allen's vivid imagining of the 20s and 30s: dirty as ever and roaring loudly enough to be heard half-way around the world.

Performances July 25 & 26 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (2 p.m. matinee).



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Highlander arts

HSAD students 'Wrap it Up'

Despite a strike-impacted semester, more than 35 students from Haliburton School of Art and Design (HSAD) rallied together to showcase their creations. The "Wrap It Up" student exhibition and sale was held on Saturday, Dec. 16 in the Great Hall of HSAD, offering unique, one of a kind gifts for the holiday season. This was the first year that participation in the art show was not mandatory for students to graduate, which created a positive environment for all artists who were present. "It's been a tough semester," said Amanda Hickey, a student in the ceramics program. "It's so nice to see everyone come together and show their diverse skills." (Emily Stonehouse)

Right: Cassie Haskett, a ceramics students, displays her pieces. Below right: Blacksmith students Dean Rivardo and Eoin Banas. Photos by Emily Stonehouse.





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Dysart launches art app

By Alex Coop

Dysart's collection of public art and cultural points of interest can now be accessed with a few swipes on a smartphone thanks to students from Fleming College.

The new app, developed for Dysart's cultural resources committee by Fleming students Karly Oliver, Michelle Paquette and Torin Whitnell from the Geographic Information Systems program, was shown off by committee member Jim Blake during a council meeting last month. "They [students] were very excited about this project," Blake told councillors.

The three students used information from the public art inventory, museum and other archives to develop the app, which can be accessed through dysartetal.ca

The app has four tabs: buildings and

spaces, historic objects, plaques and public art. Each tab opens up a photo gallery, and each item in the gallery is highlighted on a map.

There are more than 40 items listed in the app.

Blake told councillors it was important for the collection to be easily accessed.

"People are turning to their phones to access everything," he said.

Councillors agreed, and praised the work done by the students and the committee.

Mayor Murray Fearrey asked Blake and Jeff Iles, the municipality's GIS specialist and planning assistant, how people will discover the app. Iles, who helped demonstrate the app, explained that staff are always encouraged to direct people to the website. The app will also be mentioned in future newsletters and press releases.

REAL ESTATE REPORT

Residential sales forecast bright for 2018

By Lisa Harrison

Highlands residential properties, both on and off the water, were in demand in 2017, and that trend looks set to continue into 2018. But, legislation changes on Jan. 1 will make it more difficult for first-time buyers to participate.

"Inventory was low in 2017 and the number of buyers has increased with increased values in Southern Ontario," said Terry Carr via email Dec. 16. Carr is a sales representative with Re/Max North Country Realty Inc.

"The Highlands is becoming an area of choice and inventory is not keeping up. Residential homes not on water were in the highest demand in 2017 and there is every indication that this will continue throughout 2018 ... If a residential property is priced correctly, it will sell."

Carr said retirees and people wanting a change in lifestyle find the Highlands attractive.

"Market values are still reasonable compared to other parts of the province and we are not far from other urban centres. People selling south of the Highlands can get the same or better home in our area and have money to spare. This should force a spike in local services, stores and businesses within the next few years ... [having non-waterfront] residential properties in demand is new to our area and helps keep our



Cottages are getting some record-breaking sale prices. Photo submitted.

communities healthy."

Waterfront properties will continue to be in demand and market values are strong, said Carr.

"We don't see crazy spikes in value, but prices have risen and there is every indication that prices will remain at their new levels and not decrease."

One area of concern for residential properties is first-time home buyers, said Carr. She said changes to how buyers are qualified for mortgages take effect Jan. 1, 2018 "and it is our belief that this will affect

people that are pre-approved, but not by much. Time will tell, but it does look like it is going to be even tougher for people to get that first home."

Traditionally, spring and fall have been the busiest seasons, according to Carr.

"Last spring seemed to start earlier than any other year as people wanted to be sure to get their home or cottage plans sorted as quickly as possible," said Carr. "There is no indication that this spring will not be the same. Getting your property listed in time for the spring Cottage Life Show is a

really good place to start [by] catching the early bird buyers. There doesn't seem to be a poor time to list in the Highlands, but spring and fall listings definitely get the most attention."

Carr said market values and new builds, while going strong and healthy, are not going "crazy" as in other parts of the province.

"This is a good thing. It helps to keep our area a safe place to live and invest, without large increases and drops. Slow and steady wins the race."



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REAL ESTATE REPORT

Buy an existing home or cottage, or build new?

By Lisa Harrison

Residential construction is booming in the Highlands despite a shortage of skilled construction labour. Could low housing inventory and higher interest in the area be feeding the boom?

"This year's market will most likely go down as one of the strongest we have ever seen," said Rob Serediuk, sales representative with Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited's Cottage Country Team.

"Never before have we seen places priced in the \$600,000 to \$800,000 [range] get multiple offers, and sometimes more than just two," said Serediuk. "We had one property priced at \$789,000 on Kennisis Lake get seven offers in April ... in any given year, our office rolls over 20 to 30 cottages that did not sell and this year we have sold almost everything priced under \$1.5 million."

Never before have we seen places priced in the \$600,000 to \$800,000 [range] get multiple offers, and sometimes more than just two.

Rob Serediuk
Chestnut Park

Gary Burtch of G.J. Burtch Construction Enterprises Ltd. said Toronto-area buyers age 40 and older with the income to take on a second mortgage are buying or building new cottages, and retirees are cashing in on record sale prices on their city homes and renovating their cottages or building new living spaces. When construction booms outgrow the local workforce, the work doesn't stop – it just spills over to contractors outside the county.

The current boom has been fed in part by new subdivision offerings.

"In the past couple of years, we have seen entire sides of lakes open up, offering beautiful lots with 400-plus feet of frontage and three or more acres," said Serediuk. "Haliburton Lake and Percy Lake are examples ... historically people with budgets of \$1.5-million-plus have elected to build in Haliburton and not buy an existing cottage."

The real estate Multiple Listing Service (MLS) doesn't track undeveloped lots separately from developed lots, so the exact sales mix isn't known, according to John Jarvis, broker/owner with Remax North Country Realty Inc. in Haliburton and Muskoka.

Jarvis said he doesn't feel the lower number of listings year to date is a big problem over such a vast geographical area.

"In buying existing or building new, lots of factors come into play," said Jarvis. "Do



A million-dollar-plus property in the county. Photo submitted.

the buyers need to occupy a home at a certain date? What are the price and value of existing [stock] versus the cost of a new structure?"

Other considerations include finding a suitable property and the buyer's ability to finance a new construction project.

"The financing on a new build is costlier, and less attainable for many buyers as there are two levels. If a buyer cannot find a home that suits and/or building is not an option, many buyers are going with factory-

build homes," said Jarvis.

He added that this is all relative to price, and to how flexible the buyers are to compromise. "All buyers are different – 50 per cent are satisfied with what they can buy and 50 per cent have a harder time compromising on buying a home."

"Going forward in 2018, this sector (undeveloped lots) will continue to be a minor percentage of what's available for sale on the market," said Jarvis.



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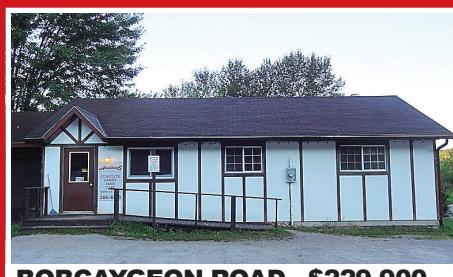
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REAL ESTATE REPORT

Short-term rentals controversial in Minden Dysart also looking to balance rental income and quiet enjoyment

By Lisa Gervais

The controversial issue of short-term rentals returned to the Minden Hills council chambers late last month when a Grandview Lane resident complained in a letter about a local resort renting out cottages.

"On Wigamog Road, I met a gentleman who told me how he was renting his Grandview Lane cottage from the website of a local resort," Barbara Hart said.

She said she found it puzzling since the area is zoned residential shoreline but in apparent contravention of bylaws, the cottage is being leased as a commercial operation.

She added that she has since found out the practice has been ongoing for many years.

When she met the man she said it was a quiet summer weekend but "this is not always the case. The renters here are not always quiet. Cross-country vehicles along this once peaceful, private road, fireworks and obscenities resound off the lake, into the night, declarations that anyone's beachfront is fair game."

She added that "illegal docks seem to be appearing."

She said despite the township being aware of the situation, "I'm wondering

why no action has been taken? Our laws are in place and they are good ones. Why are they not being enforced? Perhaps we need new elected officials."

At a Nov. 30 council meeting, Mayor Brent Devolin replied, "are we aware of short-term rentals within our jurisdiction? We are."

He added that staff had been working on the issue for more than a year and despite it being "a slow boat" headway is being made.

Coun. Pam Sayne is on the planning and development committee.

She told *The Highlander* while Dysart et al raised the question some time ago, "the issue is more recently being raised here."

She said internet advertising is contributing to the increase in rentals of lakefront properties and there's a lot of factors to consider, including the health and safety of people and lakes, the need to support local commerce, and bylaw and zoning rules.

"We are still in the gathering of information stage on this. There is a market switch from resorts to smaller rentals, not unlike what the city is finding with Airbnb's. For our rural community, it appears to be more than social, safety and economic impacts for consideration. There are also critical environmental impacts.

Pam Sayne
Coun. Minden Hills

There is a market switch from resorts to smaller rentals, not unlike what the city is finding with Airbnb's. For our rural community, it appears to be more than social, safety and economic impacts for consideration.

There are also critical environmental impacts."

Sayne said there are many residents voluntarily working with the municipality on the issue and it's

expected a staff report will be tabled in the new year.

The Lake Kashagawigamog Organization also complained to council about short-term rentals in late September.

Their main concerns were the potential for overuse of septic systems installed for private family dwellings and improper shoreline alterations, such as docking, to make units more user-friendly.

"Many of these cottages, most of which are two to four bedroom units, are being advertised on cottage rental sites as having capacities of 12 to 18 people," president Gary Wiles said at the time.

The issue was briefly discussed at a Sept. 28 council meeting as well.

Now that the county's official plan is approved, Devolin said Minden Hills will be having a zoning and land use conversation and short-term rentals are one of about a dozen topics that will be discussed.

"In the next year, it will be part of some serious conversation."

The Highlander reached out to one of the renters referenced in the woman's letter but so far they have yet to publicly comment.

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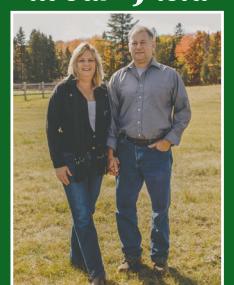
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REAL ESTATE REPORT

Consultants offer septic expertise to Minden

By Lisa Gervais

The president and CEO of Brantford-based Esse Canada, which dubs itself "the leader in septic system maintenance and inspection services," made a presentation to Minden Hills council last month as the township embarks on a mandatory septic re-inspection program.

Rick Esselment said the age of septic systems is the biggest risk factor for failure and malfunction, indicating systems 30 years old and older are most at risk.

He added that most of the failures and malfunctions occur in the pipes and the leachfield, after the septic tank.

Further, soil accounts for 70-80 per cent of nutrient and pathogen removal from sewage, he said.

Esselment also told councillors one-third is the magic number for measuring and

pumping. In other words, when solids reach one-third of the working capacity of the tank the system should be pumped.

He said a septic can be pumped too frequently and when that occurs it is detrimental to the system, which can take up to six months to recover.

As a general rule, he said systems should be accessed every three years for measurement and maintenance.

He said there are three program types.

Program one involves staff assessing the risk, doing the inspection and site work and completing reports. Program two sees staff assess the risk and setting criteria for inspections but having a third party do the inspections and reporting back to staff and the property owner. Program three involves assessment of a universal risk, staff setting criteria for inspections, third party inspections and reporting back to the owner and township staff.

In his opinion, access into septic tanks and camera inspections into pipes are vital.

The township then has to ask itself who is responsible for remedying for non-compliance or enforcement, he said. Finally, council will have to consider costs. Third party costs and a liability agreement with the owner could be \$300-\$500, he said.

Coun. Pam Sayne thanked Esselment for his power point presentation, saying council has been discussing the way



Minden Hills will implement a mandatory septic re-inspection program in 2018. Photo submitted.

forward, and he could be one of the "go-to" people "as we make decisions going forward."

She added that with climate change, there seems to be a new norm of more flooding and rain which has increased problems with septic beds at certain times of the year, with a pattern of "not operating as perfectly as they should be or failing and

then being okay."

Mayor Brent Devolin said "we're beginning the process here. We may avail ourselves of your expertise."

CAO and treasurer Lorrie Blanchard inquired about posting some of Esselment's information to the township website and Esselment indicated he could help them to do that.



We're beginning the process here. We may avail ourselves of your expertise.

Brent Devolin
Mayor, Minden Hills

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Highlander events



Chamber serves treats at holiday open house

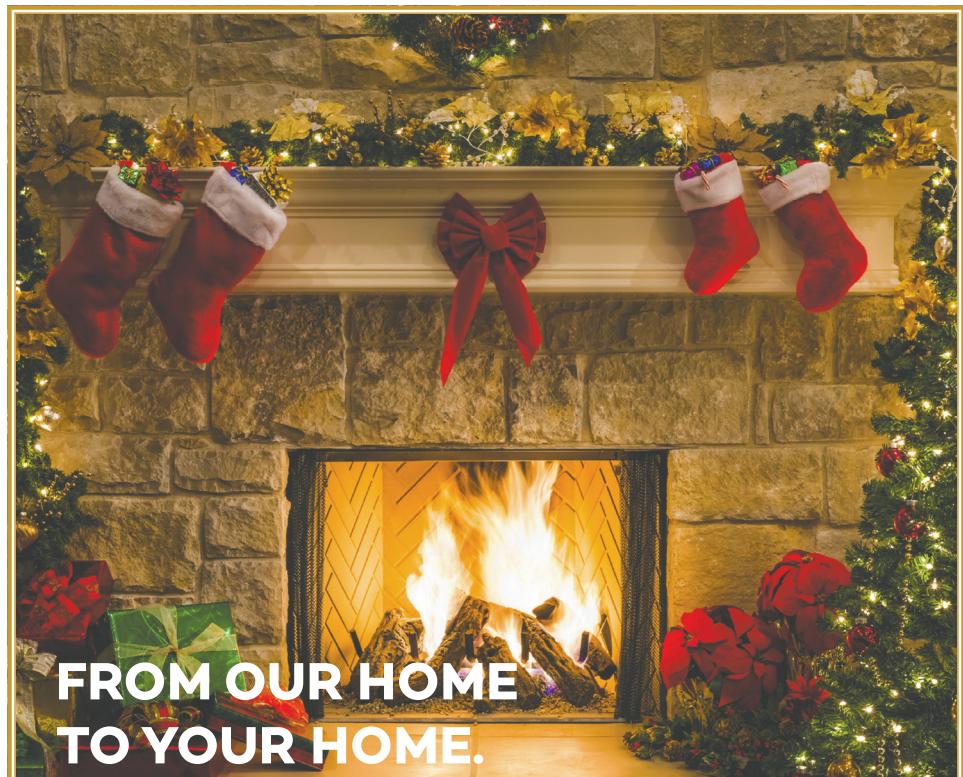
The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce spread some holiday cheer by serving homemade treats and refreshments at an open house on Dec. 19. The event was sponsored by K. Brewer Financial Services. The chamber represents the interests of businesses in the county. It currently has 275 members. (Mark Arike)
Pictured above: Chamber member Michael Stinson, right, fills up his plate while he chats with (from left) Emily Keller of K. Brewer Financial Services, administrative assistant Kathy Martin and chamber manager Autumn Wilson. Photo by Mark Arike.



Land trust gives thanks

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust hosted an open house just before the holidays. The Dec. 19 event at the organization's office in Haliburton was a way of engaging members and the community, and thanking donors and volunteers. Homemade snacks and refreshments were served. (Mark Arike)

Pictured above: from left, volunteer Andi Rodgers, office administrator Christel Furniss, director Joan Duhaime and chair Mary-Lou Gerstl. Photo by Mark Arike.



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Where: SG Nesbitt Arena

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For more information contact Elisha at 705-286-2298

MINDEN HILLS
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Highland Storm



Storm schedule - January

Tuesday, Jan. 2
Atom AE vs. Lindsay
Muskies AE
6:15 PM Lindsay Rec (2)

Saturday, Jan. 6
LL Bantam I vs.
Huntsville Heather
Douglas
10:10 AM CSC (Don
Lough)

LL Atom II vs. Huntsville
Hidden Valley Resort
11:00 AM S. G. Nesbitt
Arena

Peeweevs. Durham
Crusaders
11:00 AM A. J. LaRue
Arena

LL Atom I vs. Almaguin
Ice Devils
11:00 AM Burks Falls

LL Bantam II vs.
Huntsville Davicor
11:10 AM CSC (Don
Lough)

LL Peewee vs. Huntsville
Main Street Dental
12:00 PM S. G. Nesbitt
Arena

Atom AE vs. Collingwood
AE4 Blackhawks
12:30 PM A. J. LaRue
Arena

Atom vs. Lindsay Muskies
2:00 PM S. G. Nesbitt
Arena

Sunday, Jan. 7
LL Atom II vs. Huntsville
McDonalds
12:00 PM A. J. LaRue
Arena

Tyke vs. Lindsay Muskies
1:00 PM A. J. LaRue
Arena

Atom AE vs. South
Muskoka Bears AE
2:00 PM S. G. Nesbitt
Arena

Peeweevs. Sturgeon Lake
Thunder
5:00 PM Fenelon Falls

Atom vs. Mariposa
Lightning
6:00 PM Oakwood

**Friday, Jan. 12 -
Sunday, Jan. 14**
Peewee
MPS (MPS Parry Sound)

Saturday, Jan. 13
Tyke vs. Muskoka Rock
10:00 PM S.G. Nesbitt
Arena

LL Atom I vs. LL
Atom II
11:00 AM A. J. LaRue
Arena

LL Peewee vs. Huntsville
Cottage Country
12:00 PM A. J. LaRue
Arena

LL Bantam I vs. Parry
Sound Shamrocks 2
1:00 PM A. J. LaRue
Arena

LL Bantam II vs. South
Muskoka Muskoka
Highlands
3:15 PM Bracebridge

Sunday, Jan. 14
Tyke vs. Sturgeon Lake
3:30 PM Bobcageon

Saturday, Jan. 20
LL Atom II vs. South
Muskoka HRC Ins
10:00 AM S. G. Nesbitt
Arena

LL Atom I vs. South
Muskoka Cottage
Country Dent
11:00 AM S. G. Nesbitt
Arena

LL Peewee vs. Parry
Sound Shamrocks 2
12:00 PM S. G. Nesbitt
Arena

LL Bantam I vs. Parry
Sound Shamrocks 1
1:00 PM S. G. Nesbitt
Arena

LL Bantam II vs. Parry
Sound Shamrocks 2
2:00 PM S. G. Nesbitt
Arena

LL Atom II vs. Parry
Sound Shamrocks 1
3:00 PM BOCC

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Bob Johnston	Keagan Gillam	Alan Clement	Bill Campbell
Alex Killingbeck	Steve Stiles	Derek Blizzard	Julie Campbell
Jason Curry	Gary Williams	Nicholas Thompson	Lara Campbell
Lisa Frost	Doug Woodley	Gary Burk	Rory Campbell
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Highland Storm



The Highland Storm Tykes in action earlier this season. They were finalists this past weekend in Marmora. *File photo.*

The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House/Dollo's Foodland Bantams

The Highland Storm participated in the Campbellford hockey tournament this past weekend.

Game one was versus the Douro Dukes. The Storm had the lead briefly on a Sam Hoenow goal but were humbled in a 10-1 loss to the Dukes.

The second game saw the Storm take on the host Campbellford Colts. There was good action in the first period, however neither team got on the scoreboard. Storm goalie Nate Miscio continued to play solidly, keeping the game scoreless going into the third period. It appeared Hoenow put the Storm in the lead with under two minutes to go in the game, however after a brief discussion, the referees called off the goal, indicating a high stick, much to the dismay of Storm fans. The Colts then scored the winner with only 26 seconds left in the game.

For the B Final, the Storm faced off against the Millbrook Stars. Despite a strong effort, the boys found themselves on the losing end of a 2-0 score. (*Submitted by Gord Hoenow.*)

The JoAnne Sharpley's Source for Sports/Haliburton Family Medical Centre Peewees

The Storm travelled to Bracebridge Saturday, Dec. 16 to take on the South Muskoka Bears. The Storm were on the board first with a goal by Aiden Perrott, assisted by Kyan Hall. The Bears tied it at one heading into the second.

In the second period, the Storm took control with Cooper Coles scoring, assisted by Perrott and Hall. Then, Perrott put in another, unassisted and then Gage Hutchinson scored, assisted by Kaine Brannigan to put the storm ahead 4-1. The Bears scored to cut the lead in half but the Storm came back with Perrott putting in another for the hat trick assisted by Hall. The Storm had a 5-2 lead heading into the third.

In the third, it was all Storm. Austin Boylan scored unassisted. Then, after being pulled down, Perrott scored on a penalty shot. Then, Hutchinson scored unassisted. After that, Hall scored unassisted. Then, Perrott scored assisted by Hall and Sawyer Boutin, putting the Storm up 10-2. The Bears tried and managed to score two

quick goals but the Storm netted another with Brannigan scoring, assisted by Hutchinson and Zander Upton to take the game 11-4. Good goaltending by Taylor Consack.

The peewees next game is in Oakwood, to play the Mariposa Lightning, on Thursday, Dec. 21. (*Submitted by Ron Hall.*)

Storm reports

The Highland Storm travelled to Bracebridge to face the Bracebridge Bears. Unfortunately, the Storm lost 4-1. Goal scored by Brechin Johnston, assisted by Addison Carr. On Friday, Dec. 22, the atom A's will travel to Durham to face the Durham Crusaders. And, on Saturday, Dec. 23, the team will host the Mariposa Lightning at 2 p.m. at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. (*Submitted by Amber Card.*)

The Cottage Country Building Supplies/Ridgewood Ford Atom A's

The Highland Storm travelled to Bracebridge to face the Bracebridge Bears. Unfortunately, the Storm lost 4-1. Goal scored by Brechin Johnston, assisted by Addison Carr. On Friday, Dec. 22, the atom A's will travel to Durham to face the Durham Crusaders. And, on Saturday, Dec. 23, the team will host the Mariposa Lightning at 2 p.m. at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. (*Submitted by Amber Card.*)

Continued on page 29

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Highland Storm

Continued from page 28

The Tom Prentice & Sons Trucking Tykes

On Dec. 16, the Highland Storm travelled to Marmora to participate in the Centre Hasting Grizzlies Tyke Tournament.

The Storm outplayed Loyalist in game one, taking the game 15-0. Goals scored by Vanek Logan (3), Evan Perrott (3), Luke Gruppe (2), McCartney Saunders (2), Mason Latanville (2), Jack Tomlinson (1), Jaxen Casey (1), Easton Burk (1) and assists by Carter Braun (1), Casey (2), Burk (2), Logan (1), Tomlinson (1).

In game two, the Storm faced Newcastle, which ended in a 10-0 win. Goals scored by Logan (5), Gruppe (2), Ethan DeCarlo (1), Perrott (1), Burk (1) and assists by DeCarlo (2), Tomlinson (2), Matthew Scheffee (1), Zach Prentice (1), Logan (1), Gruppe (1) and Latanville (1).

The Storm then took on Centre Hastings, the host team, in the "A" championship game.

Goaltender Braun had a busy game, stopping many of the Grizzlies shots. The lone Storm goal was scored by Logan, assisted by Latanville and Prentice. The final score of the game was 2-1, which was the tykes first loss of the season.

Atom 2

On Saturday, Dec. 16, the Highland Storm faced off against the Huntsville McDonald's atoms on the Jack Bionda ice in Huntsville.

On this day, the Storm would be in a tough situation as seven players and only two defence were able to make the trip.

Olivia Gruppe stepped it up by patrolling the blue line, a new set of responsibilities and a lot of ice time. Gruppe quickly settled into her role alongside teammates Adam Davis and Toby Posti.

To start the game, the Storm applied pressure keeping the puck in Huntsville's zone for a good portion of the first period. Owen Sisson's pursuit of the puck and Jacob Davis' ability to keep his feet moving through those small spaces were some of the reasons Huntsville had a hard time getting to the other end of the rink.

As the game wore on, the short bench began to show its effects on the team. A couple of mental errors through the second period quickly ended up in the back of the Storm net. Andy Lippolis was both responsible in his own end and a force to be reckoned with against the boards in the

Storm reports continued

However, the team came home as the "A" finalists and displayed great sportsmanship throughout the tournament. (*Submitted by Jessica Tomlinson*).

The GJ Burtch Construction Atom AE

On Dec. 16, the Highland Storm travelled to Huntsville to take on the Otters. Both teams were ready and battled for the puck. Neither team was able to score in the first period though.

In the second period, it was the Otters that managed to score the first two goals of the game, but the Storm fought back. In front of the net, it was Jace Mills that won the battle to put the Storm on the scoreboard, ending the second period.

In the third period, the Storm gained momentum and were ready for the fight. With only a few minutes left in the game, Liam Harrison was standing at the net and took a rebound shot to score the second Storm goal, tying the game 2-2.

The Atom AE play the Huntsville Otters Dec. 30 at the S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden at 12:30 p.m. (*Submitted by Lisa Reinwald*).

Local league

Huntsville end.

By the third period, Huntsville's fresh legs and long bench was becoming a problem for the Storm. Eric Meuller and Layne Robinson at separate times both had clutch moments where they cleared the puck and relieved some of the Huntsville pressure. Jacob Lloyd had an outstanding game, stopping 25 of the 30 shots fired his way.

The final score was 5-0 Huntsville but this was not an accurate picture of how close this game was. (*Submitted by Jamie Lloyd*).

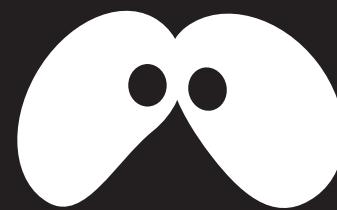
Bantam

The Total Site Services Bantams took on the Huntsville Davicor team this past weekend at the A.J. LaRue arena. It was an action-packed game. Hat tricks were scored by Nick Phippen and Captain Reese Casey with a single for Curtis Mulock. Final score was 7-1 for the Storm. The team will be taking a break over Christmas but will be back at the rink in Huntsville on Jan. 6 when they take on the Huntsville Heather Douglas. (*Submitted by Kathy Martin*).

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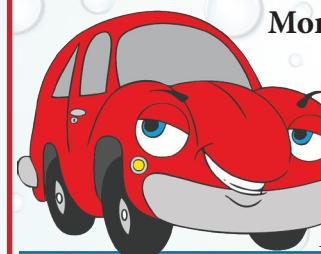
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Highlander sports

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Thank you

Yours in Him

Susan and Marcia

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.

Philippians 1:3



In Memory of Judy Mitchell

One of the Golden Girls. Thank you for being our friend. We miss your smile, warmth and caring heart.

There are many people
That we meet in our lives
But only a very few
Will make a lasting impression
On our hearts and minds.
It is these people that we will
Think of often and who still
always remain
Important to us as true friends.

I thank my God in all my
remembrances of you. *Philippians 1:3*

Love Two Golden Girls
Susan and Marcia

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Diocese of Toronto, Anglican Church of Canada

A community following Jesus
Sunday December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve at St. George's Haliburton
Lessons and Carols 9:30 am
Chaotic Family Service 4:30 pm
Carol Singing 8:00 pm
Service begins at 8:30 pm

Christmas Morning Services
St. Margaret's, Wilberforce 10:00 am
St. George's, Haliburton 10:30 am

Regular Service Times
St. George's, Haliburton - Sunday at 9:30 am
St. Margaret's, Wilberforce - Sunday at 11:15
All Are Welcome

Peewees

The Leveque Bros/Rock Breakers Peewees played a home game in Haliburton on Saturday, Dec. 16 against the Ennismore Eagles. Chloe Billings opened the game with a goal assisted by Sydney Fergusson and Hailey Hudder. In the second period, Megan Jenkins slipped one by Ennismores' goalie assisted by Kaitlyn Harris and Trinity Dexter. The third period saw two more goals by Hudder and Jenkins and an assist to Billings. Final score 4-1.

On Sunday, Dec. 17, the girls were at home against the Peterborough Ice Kats. The Ice Kats came to win, scoring the first two goals. The Jets followed with two quick goals by Maya Woods and Hudder, assists to Billings, Fergusson and Coe. In the third period, Peterborough scored two more but with 1:25 left, Hudder scored assisted by

Minden Skating Club competes

Minden Skating Club figure skaters competed in Port Carling on Dec. 3. Pictured, left to right, Liah Gallant, Abby Rosik, Ava Allaire, Madison Allaire, Alexius Mills, Tess Husbands, Madison Robinson, and Cheyenne Lagace. Absent Ruthie Parker. (Submitted)



Results:

Liah Gallant; Star 4 (U13); 4th
Abby Rosik; Pre-Juvenile (U13); 5th
Ava Allaire; Silver Interpretive; 6th,
Star 4 (U13); 7th
Madison Allaire; Star 4 (O13); 2nd

Alexius Mills; Star 5 (O13); 2nd
Tess Husbands; Star 2; Bronze
Madison Robinson; Star 3; Silver
Cheyenne Lagace; Star 3; Silver,
Star 2 Elements; Bronze
Madison Robinson and Cheyenne

Lagace; Team Elements Star 3;
Gold
Ruthie Parker and Alexius Mills,
Team Elements Star 5; 2nd.

Christmas Season 2017

Solemnity of Christmas
Christmas Eve
Haliburton – Sunday, December 24th – 10:00 pm
Bancroft – Sunday, December 24th – 7:30 pm

Christmas Day
Haliburton – Monday, December 25th – 8:30 am
Bancroft – Monday, December 25th – 11:00 am

Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God
New Year's Eve
Haliburton – Sunday, December 31st – 4:30 pm

New Year's Day
Bancroft – Monday, January 1st – 9:00 am

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Haliburton – Saturday, January 6th – 4:30 pm
Bancroft – Sunday, January 7th – 9:00 am

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Our Lady of Mercy Church
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Bancroft

Minden Bible Church

Christmas Specials

Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.



Sunday 17th - Seven Lessons of Christmas & Carols
Sunday 24th - Christmas Eve Day Candlelight Carol Concert
Reception including Christmas sweets following each service

Jets reports

Woods. Unfortunately, the girls could not find the back of the net again and lost 4-3. (Submitted by Tracy Coe).

Midgets

The Bancroft IDA/Red Eagle Family Campground Midgets had two away games this past weekend.

They played against the Lindsay Lynx on Saturday, Dec. 16 for a 2-2 tie. Sunday's (Dec. 17) game was faster paced. The lone goal was scored with a one-timer by Gabby Burnett, assisted with a pass from behind the net by Katie Funk, giving the Jets a 1-0 win against the Napanee Crunch.

This coming weekend, they play against Cobourg on home ice at 4 p.m. (Submitted by Lysane Burnett).

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Highlander events

OBITUARIES



Doris Adeline Watterworth (nee Johnston) (Resident of Toronto, Ontario)

Peacefully at Bridgepoint Healthcare on Saturday morning, December 16, 2017 in her 91st year. Beloved wife of the late Douglas Watterworth. Loving mother of Ann (Doug Beattie) and beloved grandmother of Sarah (Sam), Lizzie and Douglas. Cherished daughter of the late Sidney and Jessie Johnston (nee Pope). Loving sister of Bill (Jane). Predeceased by her brothers Jack (Sandra) and Don. Also lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren and many good friends and neighbours. Doris worked for the Bank of Montreal for over 35 years and was one of the first women in management with the bank. Doris was born in Haliburton and although she lived most of her life in Toronto, still had deep ties to the community. She was much loved and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.

Visitation, Funeral Service & Reception

The family received friends at the HUMPHREY FUNERAL HOME A.W. MILES – NEWBIGGING CHAPEL, 1403 Bayview Avenue (south of Davisville Avenue) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening, December 20, 2017. Then to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Friday morning, December 22, 2017 for Funeral Service in the Chapel at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). Interment later at Evergreen Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the CNIB or the Kidney Foundation of Canada would be appreciated by the family.



www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Robert Burns

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Tuesday morning, December 12, 2017 in his 85th year. Beloved son of the late Robert & Kathleen Burns. Loving brother of James (Jim) and his wife Linda of Oshawa. Fondly remembered by his niece Kim and his friends at Parklane Apts. Bob was an avid marksman (rifle). He enjoyed snowmobiling, photography and his ATV.

Visitation, Funeral Service & Reception

Friends were invited to call at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Monday morning, December 18, 2017 for Funeral Service in the Chapel at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). As expressions of sympathy, donations to Extendicare - Proud Pioneers would be appreciated by the family.



www.communityfuneralhomes.com



Richard "Rick" Morley

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Haliburton Highlands Health Services on Saturday morning, December 16, 2017 in his 68th year. Cherished son of the late Ken & Mary Morley. Dear brother of James and Allan (Brenda). Lovingly remembered by nephew Michael and niece Jennifer and by his great nieces Lilly and Chloe. Rick was a trucker for many years. He enjoyed outdoor activities and the beautiful Haliburton Highlands.

Celebration of Life & Reception

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. We invite you to check back later with us. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



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Telling our Stories presents Ted Barris

It was a full house Wednesday, Dec. 13 as people gathered to listen to author Ted Barris deliver an animated presentation based on his novel, *Victory at Vimy: Canada Comes of Age, April 9–12, 1917*. Barris is a writer, journalist, broadcaster, and reporter who specializes in Canada's military history. For this particular presentation, Barris went beyond the militaristic tactics of Vimy, and focused on the development of Canada as a united nation. The presentation was part of the "Telling Our Stories" speakers series, which is organized monthly through Yours Outdoors and takes place at the Fish Hatchery. For more information on future speakers series, see yoursoutdoors.ca or email info@yoursoutdoors.ca. (Emily Stonehouse)

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of Angus "Gus" George MacInnes

Died peacefully in Haliburton on December 17th surrounded by family at the age of 83.

Gus is survived by his loving life partner Carole Sicard, his children Wade (Julie), Jennifer (Ed), Darren (Rose), Jeanette (Drew), Michael (Crystal), & Duane MacInnes (Jacquie)- his step-children Larry, Corrine, Wendy, Terry and Kevin Sicard. He is survived by his many loving grandchildren Shawn, Jade, Donovan, Stephanie, Madison, Courtney, Louis, Tyler, Josh, Cassandra, Whitney, Rebecca, Mollie, Lexanne, Keifer, Payton, and step grandchildren Natasha, Brittany, Ryan, Clay and his many great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his mother Barbara, and his father Charles.

"Gus" was born on May 31, 1934 in Toronto. After moving to Haliburton, he worked as a mechanic, until he opened up MacInnes Motor Works. For over 30 years, he served the community diligently, and reliably. His children remember him as a strong-willed man, who always provided for his family, and helped others no matter the task. He built a reputation as a loving father, and a being an integral member of the town.

A celebration of life is to be announced at a later date, in Haliburton. Cremation has taken place. The family would like to thank Dr. Norman Bottum, and all the staff at the Haliburton Hospital, for their efforts, care, and dedication.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to the 4 C's would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



Catch the Ace lottery raises \$15K

The first installment of the Catch the Ace lottery raised \$15,000 for three organizations. Half the proceeds, or \$7,500, went to the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA), which runs the lottery. Canoe FM received \$4,500 and the Haliburton Highlands Resource Centre (HHRC), a charitable arm of the HHOA, collected \$3,000. Ticket sales will continue to raise money for these organizations. They are \$5 each and can be purchased at 13 locations across the county. Pictured, from left, are Bob Stiles, Canoe FM director; Roxanne Casey, station manager; Ron Evans, Canoe FM president; Dennis Casey, HHRC secretary/treasurer; Larry Hewitt, HHOA president; and Rusty Rustenburg, HHOA vice-president. (Mark Arike)

Business directory

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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Bathroom Renovation – Stanhope Fire Station

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking bids from qualified,
experienced trades to renovate a bathroom in our Stanhope Fire
Hall, as per the design, to create a new accessible washroom.

Please refer to www.algonquinhIGHLANDS.ca
for complete details and Bid Forms:

CALL FOR TENDER
Bathroom Renovation Station 80 FS-17-02.

Sealed/marked quotes will be received at the
Township Office: 1123 North Shore Road,
Algonquin Highlands, Ontario K0M 1J1 until 3:00 p.m.
on Friday, January 5, 2018.

Please refer all tender inquiries to:
Mike Cavanagh, Fire Chief mcavanagh@algonquinhIGHLANDS.ca
or by phone at 705-766-0010.

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Highlander classifieds

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The Municipality of Highlands East Building Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Building Inspector/Deputy Chief Building Official.

Preference will be given to candidates who have the following experience:

- 5 years experience in a related trade with a minimum of 2 years performing municipal building inspections and reviewing permit applications for Part 3 & Part 9 Buildings and Part 8 Sewage.
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- Qualified in or be willing to obtain qualification through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing examinations in House, Small Buildings, HVAC-House, Plumbing-House, Septic and Building Structural.
- Have a thorough working knowledge of the Ontario Building Code and associated legislation, with a demonstrated ability in plans examination, issuing permits, performing site inspections to ensure compliance with the Ontario Building Code and knowledge of construction techniques and systems.
- Have a valid G driver's license.
- Have experience with various computer programs including MS Office Suite and good oral and written communication skills.

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application –Building Inspector/Deputy Chief Building Official"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 8th, 2018 via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Shannon Hunter, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: shunter@highlandseast.ca

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer. Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Shannon Hunter, C.A.O.

A copy of the detailed job description is available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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The logo for Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) features a stylized 'H' icon composed of four vertical bars of increasing height from left to right. Below the icon, the text 'HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS' is written in a serif font, followed by 'HEALTH SERVICES' in a smaller sans-serif font. A green horizontal bar spans the width of the 'H' icon, containing the text 'Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care' in white.

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) currently has exciting opportunity available for an energetic individual to join the team!

VP CLINICAL SERVICES & CNE

Permanent Full-time Position

The Vice President Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Executive is a key member of the Executive Leadership Team and has leadership oversight of all clinical and practice activities across HHHS including hospital and long-term care. This position is accountable for the development, delivery, and ongoing management of the overall clinical and practice vision for HHHS, including professional practice, clinical quality and performance, and safety, while creating an environment that promotes clinical and administrative best practices and excellence, and fosters a healthy work environment. As Chief Nursing Executive, this position sets standards for nursing and clinical professionals providing leadership in various organization-wide functions, projects and initiatives. The successful candidate will have a Master's Degree in Nursing, Healthcare Administration, or equivalent; current registration with the College of Nurses of Ontario; and a minimum of five (5) years of related management experience.

If you are interested in joining our team for the above positions, please submit your resume in confidence by January 21, 2018 to:

Haliburton Highlands Health Services
c/o Human Resources
Box 115, Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0
hr@hhhs.ca
Fax: 705-457-4609

Haliburton Highlands Health Services thanks all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you are contacted by HHHS regarding a job opportunity or testing, please advise if you require accommodation for a disability. Information received relating to accommodation needs of applicants will be addressed confidentially.

FUNERAL SERVICES



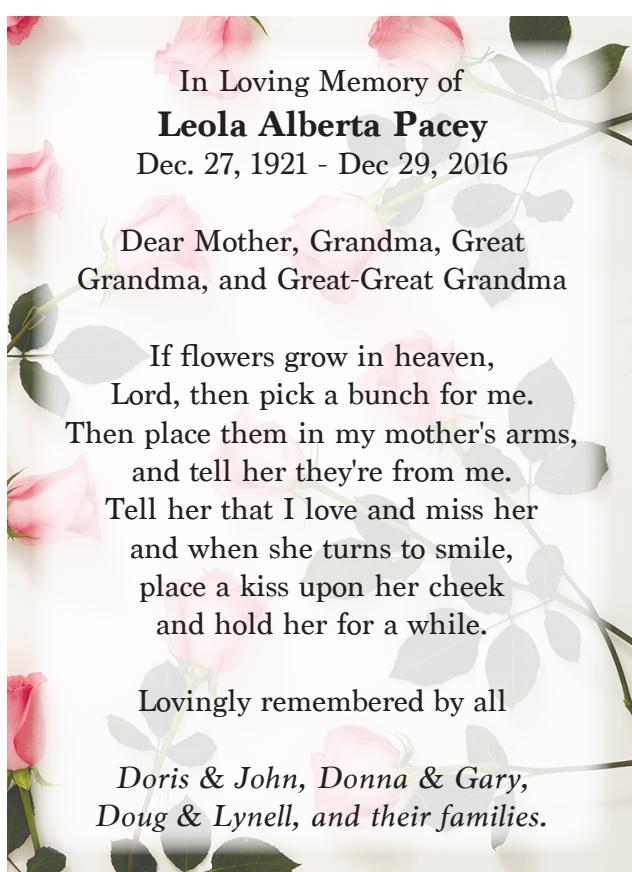
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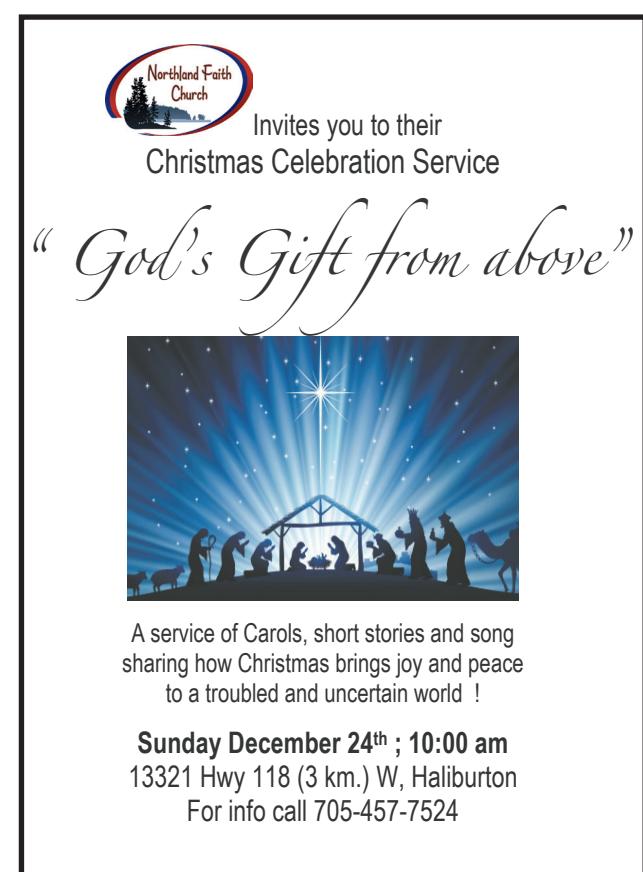
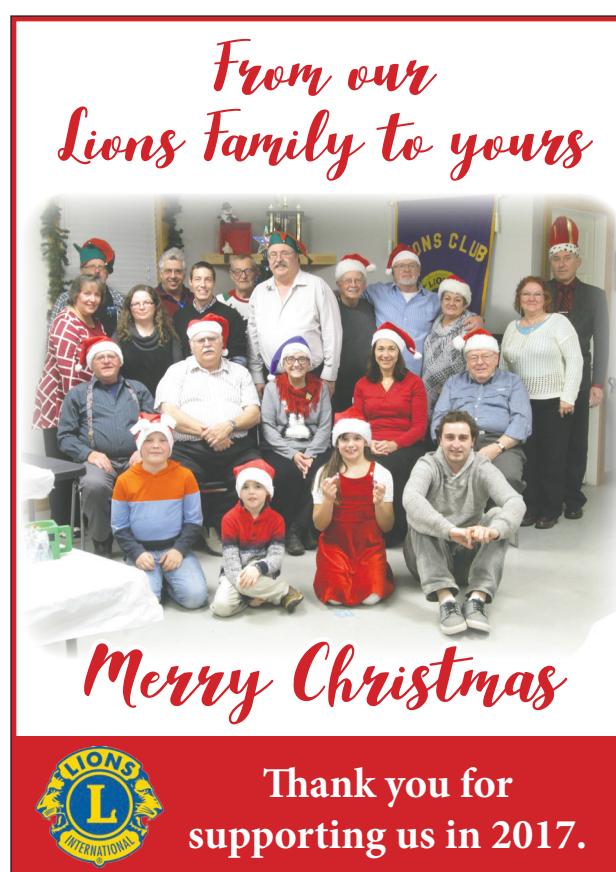
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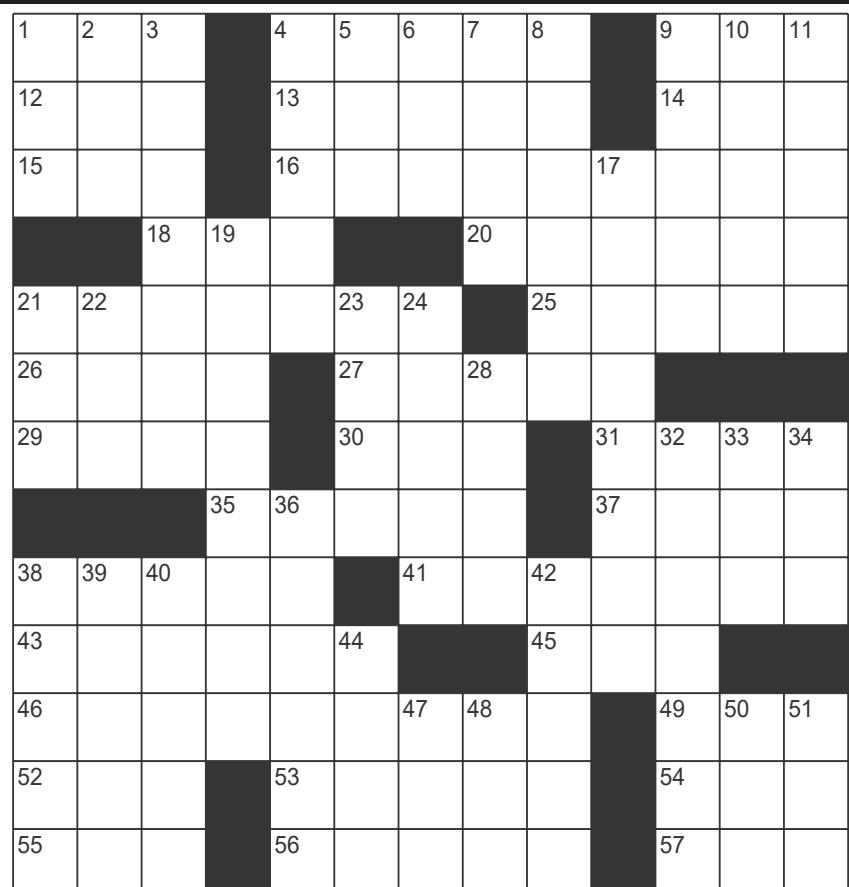
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- 26. Deceiver
- 27. Shut
- 29. Glen
- 30. Managed
- 31. Realm
- 35. Fry lightly
- 37. Tattle
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- 57. Shred

DOWN

- 1. James Bond, e.g.
- 2. Before, to Shakespeare
- 3. Hide
- 4. October birthstones
- 5. Gent
- 6. Boxing great
- 7. Skirt bottoms
- 8. Modifies
- 9. Goodbye, in Paris
- 10. Actor Roger _____
- 11. _____ tube
- 17. Endanger
- 19. Took into custody
- 21. Elderly
- 22. Through
- 23. Light tan
- 24. Overjoy
- 28. Wallet stuffers
- 32. Go back in
- 33. Stately tree
- 34. Pacino and Gore
- 36. Aid
- 38. Incline
- 39. Name tag
- 40. Foretelling signs
- 42. Cake layers
- 44. Salty drop
- 47. SSW's opp.
- 48. So-so grade
- 50. Go downhill
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PREVIOUS WEEK'S ANSWERS

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2	3	9	5	6	1	7	4	8
4	2	5	6	1	8	9	3	7
9	6	3	7	4	5	8	1	2
1	7	8	2	3	9	5	6	4

What's on



Christmas in Carnarvon

A yuletide tradition has continued with the 43rd Christmas in Carnarvon event. The Zion United Church hall was literally packed to the rafters Dec. 6 as emcee Joy Davey said, "we gather together with our dear friends in community. We sing, laugh, sit in silence and eat wonderful things." (Lisa Gervais)

Pictured top: Ladies share food and drink at the Christmas in Carnarvon event. Above: Emcee Joy Davey addresses the ladies. Photos by Lisa Gervais.



Sing-a-long in Lochlin

Louise Berry, left and Pat Moss, right, sing a duet at the Lochlin United Church annual sing-a-long on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Photo by Walt Griffin.

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What's On

JAN 2018 • EVENT LISTINGS

Thursday, December 21

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Craft Group in Wilberforce, at Deep Roots Store, every Thursday. Call 705-448-9888.

11a.m. – Noon – Adult Shiny at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. \$5/ person

Noon – 2 p.m. – Adults Only Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. \$2/person

Noon – 2 p.m. – Public Skating at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, FREE!. Children under 10 must wear a CSA approved helmet.

Sunday December 24

10 a.m. – Joint Pastoral Charge Morning Service, at Lochlin United Church, 1050 Lochlin Rd., 10 a.m. singing, 10:30 a.m. service. 705-457-1891, hpcharge@bellnet.ca

7 p.m. – Joint Pastoral Charge Evening Service – Communion and Special Music, at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St., Haliburton. 705-457-1891, hpcharge@bellnet.ca

7 p.m. – "The Gift", Christmas Eve service, at Eagle Lake Community Church.

Wednesday December 27

11 – Noon – Adult Shiny at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

Noon – 2 p.m. – Public Skating at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, FREE!. Children under 10 must wear a CSA approved helmet.

Thursday December 28

11 – Noon – Adult Shiny at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

Noon – 2 p.m. – Public Skating at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, FREE!. Children under 10 must wear a CSA approved helmet.

Friday, December 29

11 – Noon – Adult Shiny at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Public

Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

Sunday, December 31

9 a.m. – Joint New Years' Eve Service, for Ingoldsby and Lochlin United Churches, at Ingoldsby, 1741 Ingoldsby Rd., Minden. 9 a.m. singing, 9:30 a.m. service. 705-457-1891, hpcharge@bellnet.ca

11:15 a.m. – Contemporary Service at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St., Haliburton. 705-457-1891, hpcharge@bellnet.ca

6 – 8 p.m. – Family New Year's Eve – Grab your skates, toboggans, family and friends, and bring them to the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena for this free event.

2018! January 3, 2018

HHHS' community support services is offering grief support groups beginning in January. The first Wednesday of every month beginning Jan. 3 in Haliburton and the second Wednesday of every month beginning Jan. 10 in Minden. Contact Amanda Rowden 705-457-2941 x 2932 or arowden@hhhs.ca

Thursday January 4

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Craft Group in Wilberforce, at Deep Roots Store, every Thursday. Call 705-448-9888.

Monday January 8

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. - Falls Prevention Course, at Hyland Crest Fireside Lounge. Free to all seniors. Pre-registration required. This course runs Mondays and Thursdays from Jan 8 – Mar 29.

Tuesday January 9

11 a.m. – Noon – Falls Prevention Course, at Haliburton Hospital Ruth Parkes Room. Free to all seniors. Pre-registration required. This course runs Tuesdays and Thursdays from Jan 9 – Mar 29.

Wednesday January 10

10:30 a.m. – Noon – HKPR Health Unit Sexual Health Clinic, providing confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health testing and teaching. For more info, locations, or to make an appointment call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext 2205.

1-866-888-4577 ext 2205.

Thursday January 11

11 a.m. – Noon – Falls Prevention Course, at Haliburton Hospital Ruth Parkes Room. Free to all seniors. Pre-registration required. This course runs Tuesdays and Thursdays from Jan 9 – Mar 29.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. - Falls Prevention Course, at Hyland Crest Fireside Lounge. Free to all seniors. Pre-registration required. This course runs Mondays and Thursdays from Jan 8 – Mar 29.

Saturday January 13

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's Course, for people aged 12 and up. See hcsa.ca/driver-training/ for details.

Therapeutic Touch Level 1 workshop. Learn a holistic, evidence-based therapy that provides relaxation in any situation and boosts the immune system for improved healing, health and well being. Contact Susan Keith 705-457-3981 or ch.concepts@sympatico.ca

Saturday January 20

Therapeutic Touch Level 2 workshop. Continue or refresh your Therapeutic Touch journey! Learn to recognize and understand the meaning of imbalances in the energy field and methods of rebalancing the field to promote health and well being. Contact Susan Keith 705-457-3981 or ch.concepts@sympatico.ca

4 – 7 p.m. – Jeff Moulton in the Clubroom at the Haliburton Legion. 50/50 draw at 6 p.m., enjoy a delicious meal for \$6 by the Ladies Auxiliary. \$5 cover charge for non-members.

Wednesday January 24

10:30 a.m. – Noon – HKPR Health Unit Sexual Health Clinic, providing confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health testing and teaching. For more info, locations, or to make an appointment call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext 2205.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

HALIBURTON BRANCH

Monday bridge 1p.m.

Tuesday dart league starting at 7 p.m.

Wednesday bid euchre 1 p.m. start, bingo doors open at 6 p.m, bingo starts at 7 p.m. - \$500 jackpot, \$1000 jackpot - last Wednesday of the month.

Thursday general meeting third Thursday of the month starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

Friday meat draw - five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw ... Chester Howse, MC.

Friday cribbage 1 p.m. start and fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards

Saturday 50/50 4 p.m. draw, tickets \$1 each from noon onwards

Sunday breakfast second and fourth Sunday of the month – 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$6 per person. Occasional volunteers are needed.

Live entertainment featuring Jeff Moulton, Saturday, Jan. 20, 4-7 p.m. in the Club Room. Enjoy a delicious meal for only \$6 prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary. \$5 cover charge for non-members.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at (705) 457-2571, email rcl129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome.

MINDEN BRANCH

Dec. 22, lunch and dinner as usual, karaoke at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 23-26, closed. Dec 27-29, bar open but no lunch served. Closed Dec. 30, open Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday. Jan. 1, President's Levy 2-5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Tuesday, Jan. 2, open for full service. Have a safe and happy holiday season, from all at Branch 636.

Ladies darts have resumed, Wed. afternoon at 1 p.m. Monday-every second week rug hooking; Tuesday, seniors art classes 10 a.m., bid euchre 1 p.m.; Wednesday, meat draw noon; Thursday, mixed darts and euchre 7 p.m.; Friday 7 p.m. mixed darts; Saturday, meat draw 1 p.m.; Sunday, sports day noon. Lunches every Mon.-Fri, with Friday featuring fish and chips and chicken wings also served 5-7 p.m. Take-out available. Everyone welcome.

WILBERFORCE BRANCH

Dec. 22 Wing night 6:30 - 9 p.m. Jam session 7:30 p.m. Anyone can come out and play/sing/eat

Dec. 23 Meat draw 2 p.m. - Early bird 3 p.m. sharp

Dec. 25 Merry Christmas - Legion closed

Dec. 26 Boxing Day - Legion closed

Dec. 27 Fun darts 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 29 No dinner available

We are in dire need of volunteers. If anyone is interested contact the Legion at 705-448-2221. Travelling this winter? Get your travel insurance through your membership. Legion is closed Christmas and Boxing Day. Dec. 31 New Year's Eve dance 9 p.m. – close Jan. 1/18 New Year's Day President's Levee 1:30 p.m. Jan. 27/18 Crib tournament in Trenton 29\$/50 - 28\$/25 - 24\$/10

FREE EVENTS!

YPN NIGHT
Young Professionals Network

705-457-4700 • ypn@haliburtonchamber.com

Every last
THURSDAY
of the month

Thank you to our supporters:

 CEDAR WINDS
DESIGN ≈ BUILD

TheHighlander

 Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

 PINESTONE
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTRE

Moore Lake Special Offering - \$599,500

This home or cottage has it all! Easy access from the highway and Southern County location, sits on a 3-lake chain, has 193 ft of wonderful shoreline....and wait until you see the house! 2,900 sq. ft. of living space over 3 floors, a wonderful screened porch, a gorgeous kitchen, large master bdrm., and full walkout basement. Beautiful gardens, a Quonset hut and so, so much more! Loads for the money.

Twelve Mile/Mountain Lakes - \$1,385,000

How many lakes would you like? 256 gorgeous acres with frontage on two lakes. The front part of the acreage is zoned commercial and used to be known as Twin Lakes Resort. Trails throughout the property. Multiple buildings on the property including dining, rec areas, motel units and cabins and cottages – all in need of work and being sold as is. A unique offering – let your imagination run wild!

Mountain Lake - \$979,900

Two for one! This 2007 Viceroy home or cottage sits on a beautiful point lot property. Well treed, great privacy and excellent waterfront. Comes with a second waterfront property for a combined water frontage of 387.99 feet. An original cottage "as is" sits on the second lot. Soaring windows, open concept living/kitchen/dining, a spacious Haliburton Room and more.

1,350 ft. Water frontage – Bob Lake \$499,000

NEW PRICE!
Text 54744 to 28888 for Instant Photos/Details

Incredible parcel of land – 100 acres, 1350 ft. water frontage – all on beautiful Bob Lake. A rare opportunity to have it all. A mix of shoreline offers sand bottom, hard-packed, or deep water – yours to choose. Large level area at the waterfront gives several building site options.

Superior Commercial Location – Highway 35

The best in premium commercial space! Over 2,100 ft. of office or retail space – well maintained, loads of windows for more exposure and a professional setting. Shares building with a high-traffic business. Currently configured with 6 offices/common room, elegant main entrance, kitchen, bathroom and storage – but reconfigure to your needs. Loads of parking both beside and behind the building. A great time to gear up your new business or move your existing business.

Moving the Highlands



Terry@MovingTheHighlands.com

MovingTheHighlands.com

DIRECT 705.935.1011



Terry Carr

Sales Representative

**No Cost | No Commitment
Property Evaluations
(a \$350 Value)**

*Wishing everyone
a wonderful
Christmas and a
Fabulous 2018!*



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Anthony vanLieshout, CRA, Broker of Record

Marcia Bell* Lorri Roberts* Chris James* Chris Smolarz*

(705) 457-2414 ext 27

For your trust in our company, your faith in our expertise, and for
the relationship we enjoy with you, we thank you and
sincerely wish you a world of peace and a

Happy and Prosperous New Year



trilliumteam.ca



*Sales Representative(s) **Broker of Record



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705-457-2414
197 Highland Street

Minden Office
705-286-1234
12340 Highway 35

Kinmount Office
705-488-3060
4072 Cty Road 121



Happy
Holidays

Wishing everyone peace, good health,
and happiness throughout the New Year!

Happy
Holidays

The Haliburton County Folk Society
presents
Homemade Stew
A celebration
of local musicians
with a special tribute to
Johnny Burke

Saturday Jan 27, 2018 7:30pm
Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion
www.haliburtonfolk.com

**Highlands
summer
festival** 2018
Live Theatre

Wherefore art thou Romeo?
www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca
705-457-9933

CRYSTAL LAKE ICONIC COTTAGE \$1,875,000



Stunning executive waterfront home or cottage built in 2006. 4,500+ sq. ft., 3.5 Bedrooms with high-end finishings & fixtures, offered turn-key. 28' cathedral ceilings, W/3 storey fireplace. Home of the famous floating "Tiki Bar". Just over 2 hr. of the GTA.



Steve Brand*
705-488-3060
cell/text 416-271-6844
steve@stevebrand.ca